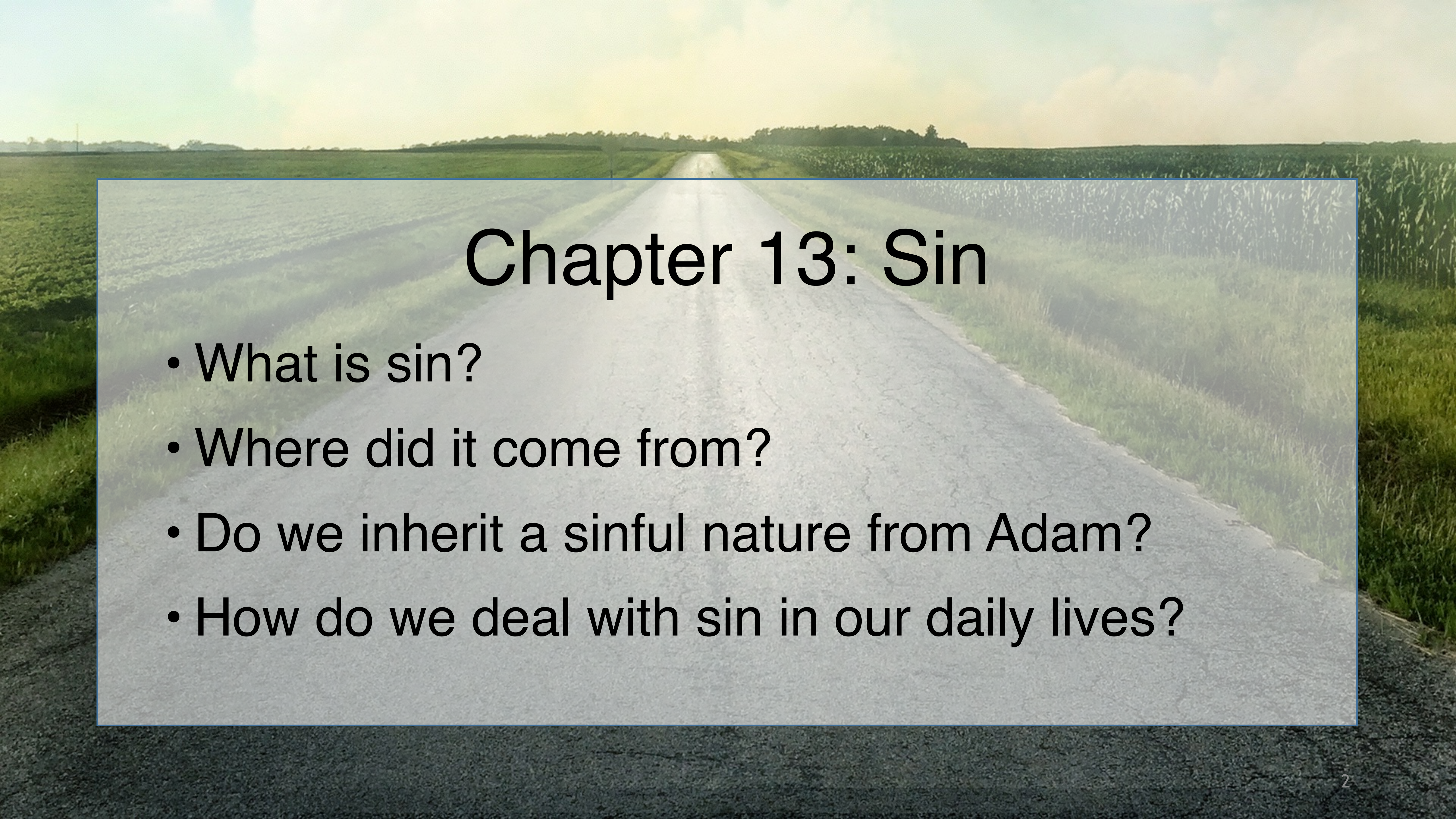




VIEWPOINT

WHERE LIFE & THEOLOGY MEET

A long, straight road stretches into the distance, flanked by green fields and a cloudy sky. The road is paved and has a white line down the center. The fields on either side are lush green, and the sky is filled with soft, white clouds. The overall scene is peaceful and open.

Chapter 13: Sin

- What is sin?
- Where did it come from?
- Do we inherit a sinful nature from Adam?
- How do we deal with sin in our daily lives?

Definition of Sin

Sin is any failure to conform to the moral law of God in act, attitude, or nature.

- Sin includes our attitudes. (Ex 20:17; Matt 5:22, 28)
- Sin includes our moral nature. (Rom 5:8; Eph 2:3)

Definition of Sin

Is the essence of sin “selfishness”?

- Scripture does not define it in this way.
- Some self-interest is good. (Matt 6:20; Ezek 33:11)
- Some sin involves selfless motives or ideals.
- Such a definition would make God—who desires His own glory above all else—a selfish sinner.

Definition of Sin

- Sin is directly opposite to all that is good in the character of God, and just as God necessarily and eternally delights in Himself and in all that He is, so God necessarily and eternally hates sin.

Origin of Sin

- God did not sin, and He is not to be blamed for sin. To blame God for sin would be blasphemy against His character. (Gen 18:25; Deut 32:4; Job 34:10; Jas 1:13)

Origin of Sin

- Yet, there is no eternally existing evil power in the universe similar to or equal to God Himself in power. (Such a view is dualism.)
- God accomplishes all things according to His will. (Eph 1:11; Dan 4:35)

Origin of Sin

- Sin originated in the angelic world between the end of creation and the temptation of Adam and Eve. (Gen 1:31; 3:1-7)

Origin of Sin

- The first sin was typical of sin in many ways:
 - ✓ It challenged God's words as the basis of knowledge.
 - ✓ It challenged God's commands as the basis of moral standards.
 - ✓ It challenged God's authority to determine our identity.
 - ✓ It was irrational. Sin is always ultimately irrational.

Doctrine of Inherited Sin

1. Inherited Guilt: We are counted guilty because of Adam's sin. (Rom 5:12-21)

- Rom 5:12: Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned.

Doctrine of Inherited Sin

- God imputed Adam's guilt to us. Is this unfair? Well:
 - ✓ Everyone has also voluntarily committed many sins.
 - ✓ We have no way of knowing whether we would have sinned in Adam's place, but this is not the issue.
 - ✓ It is just as "unfair" for God to impute Christ's righteousness to us.

Doctrine of Inherited Sin

2. Inherited Corruption: We have a sinful nature because of Adam's sin. (Ps 51:5; 58:3; Eph 2:3)

- In our natures, we totally lack spiritual good before God. (Rom 7:18; Titus 1:15; Jer 17:9; Eph 4:18)
- In our actions, we are totally unable to do spiritual good before God. (Rom 8:8; Jn 15:5; Heb 11:6; Isa 64:6)

Doctrine of Inherited Sin

3. Are infants guilty before they commit actual sins?

- Scripture indicates that even before birth children have a guilty standing before God. (Ps 51:5; 58:3)
- A child's sinful nature often manifests itself very early, certainly within the first two years of a child's life.

Doctrine of Inherited Sin

4. How can infants who die be saved? (Ps 51:5, 58:3; Rom 2:6-11)

- If infants are saved, it cannot be on the basis of their own merits or innocence, but on the basis of Christ's work.
- It is possible for God to regenerate infants even before birth, though this is unusual. (Lk 1:15; Ps 22:10)

Doctrine of Inherited Sin

4. How can infants who die be saved? (Ps 51:5, 58:3; Rom 2:6-11)

- Scripture is silent on this, though it is God's frequent pattern in Scripture to save the children of those who believe in him. (Gen 7:1; Josh 2:18; Acts 16:31)
- David had confidence that he would live in God's presence forever and that he would join his son in the afterlife. (2 Sam 12:23; Ps 23:6)

Actual Sins in Our Lives

1. All people are sinful before God. (Ps 14:3, 143:2; Rom 3:9-10, 23; Jas 3:2; 1 Jn 1:8-10)
2. Does our ability limit our responsibility?
 - The idea that we are only responsible for what we are able to do is contrary to the witness of Scripture. (Eph 2:1)
 - The true measure of our responsibility is the perfection of God's moral law and holiness. (Matt 5:48)

Actual Sins in Our Lives

3. Are there degrees of sin?

- Legal guilt: Any sin—even a “very small sin”—separates us from God. (Gen 2:17; Rom 5:16; Gal 3:10)
- Results in life and in relationship with God: Some sins have greater consequences. (Jn 19:11; Ezek 8:6-15)

Actual Sins in Our Lives

4. What happens when a Christian sins?

- Our legal standing before God is unchanged. (Rom 8:1)
- Our fellowship with God is disrupted and our Christian life is damaged. (Kph 4:30; Heb 12:9-10; Rev 3:19; Rom 6:16)

Actual Sins in Our Lives

4. What happens when a Christian sins?

- The danger of “unconverted evangelicals”:
 - ✓ There is a real possibility that some will associate with the church who are not truly born again.
 - ✓ A life of persistent disobedience and a lack of the fruit of the Spirit is a warning that a person may not be truly saved.

Actual Sins in Our Lives

4. What happens when a Christian sins?

- The cure—confession (GK ὁμολογέω)
- 1 John 1:9—If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Actual Sins in Our Lives

4. What happens when a Christian sins?

- Does sin in your life affect your rewards in heaven?
- Read 1 Cor 3:10-15, 2 Cor 5:10, 1 Cor 4:5

Actual Sins in Our Lives

5. What is the unpardonable sin?

- Then—read Matt 12:31-32, Mk 3:28-30
- Now—watch: <http://realtruthrealquick.com/unforgivable-sin/> or <http://realtruthrealquick.com/unforgivable-sin-2/>

Punishment of Sin

- The primary reason that God punishes sin is that His righteousness demands it.
(Rom 3:25-26)
- When sin is punished, God is showing Himself to be a righteous judge over all, and justice is being done in His universe.

Punishment of Sin

- God also punishes sin to get our attention so that we will turn to Him or turn back to Him.
- Grudem calls this a deterrent and a warning.
- Thus, even God's discipline in time is an extension of His grace to us.

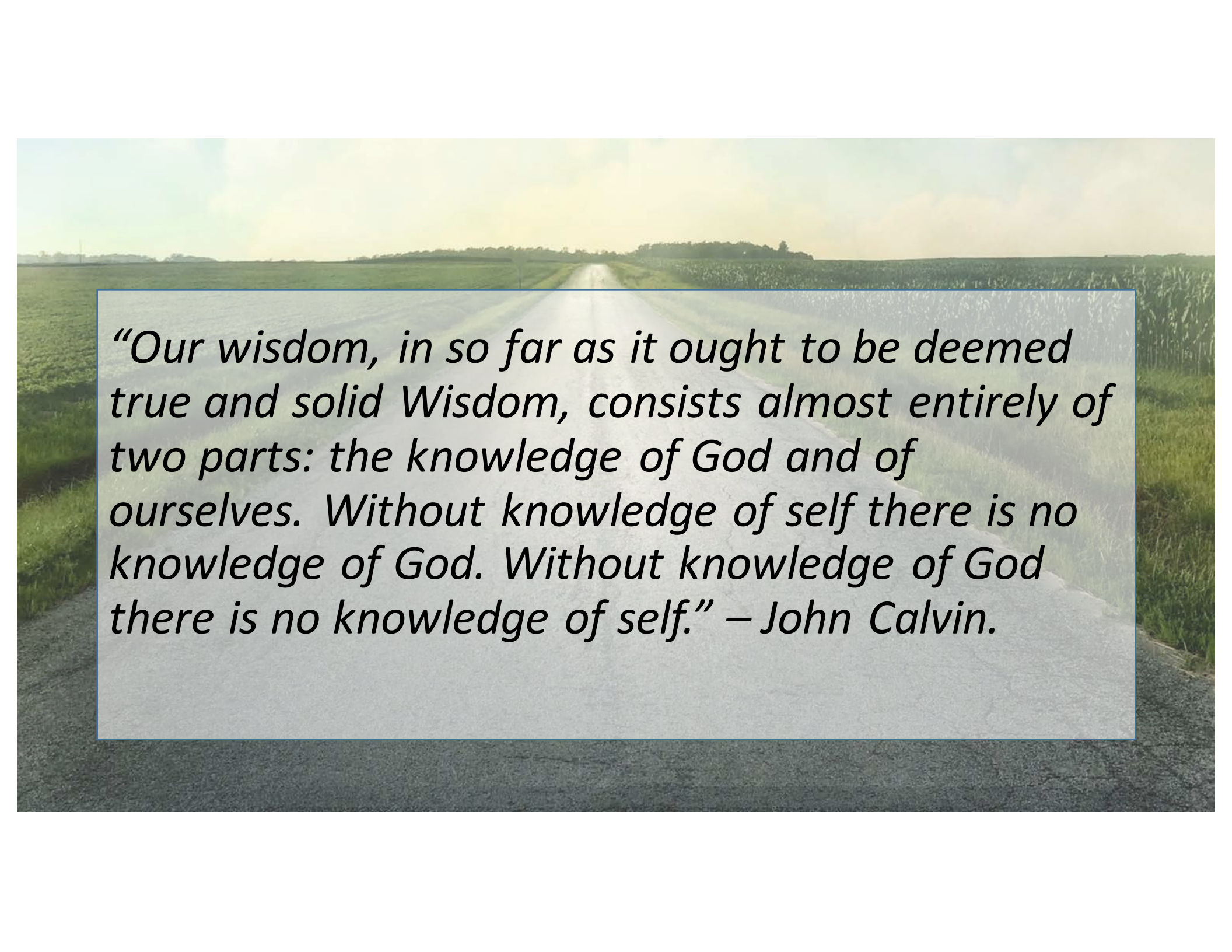
Sin—A Summary

- **Definition of sin**—failure to conform to God's standards
- **Origin of sin**—originated in the angelic world
- **Doctrine of inherited sin**—we are counted guilty because of Adam's sin (Rom 5:12-21)
- **Actual sin in our lives**—all have sinned (Rom 3:23); the cure
- **Punishment of sin in our lives**—righteousness demands it, a deterrent, and a warning—to get our attention



VIEWPOINT

WHERE LIFE & THEOLOGY MEET

A photograph of a long, straight asphalt road stretching into the distance. The road is flanked by green fields, and the sky is a pale, hazy blue. The text is overlaid on the road.

“Our wisdom, in so far as it ought to be deemed true and solid Wisdom, consists almost entirely of two parts: the knowledge of God and of ourselves. Without knowledge of self there is no knowledge of God. Without knowledge of God there is no knowledge of self.” – John Calvin.

The Doctrine of Man

- The Purpose of Man
- Humanity Defined
- Man, Male and Female
- Divinity meets Humanity

The Purpose of Man

God Did Not Need to Create Man, Yet He Created Us for His Own Glory. (Isa 43:7; 1 Cor 10:31 Eph 1:11-12)

What Is Our Purpose in Life? To glorify God through delight in him. (Ps 73:25-26; 84:1-2, 10; Rom 5:2-3; 11:36 Phil 4:4; Rev 4:11)

Humanity Defined

Humans are beings made in the image of God.

To define humanity in any other way will inevitable include things that are not humans or exclude those who are.

False Definitions:

- **Humans are animals that have 46 Chromosomes**
- **Humans are animals with opposable thumbs**
- **Humans are being that have the ability to process and define data**
- **Humans have a concept of history**

Humanity Defined

Specific Aspects of Our Likeness to God.

- **Moral Aspects**
- **Spiritual Aspects**
- **Mental Aspects**
- **Relational Aspects**

Humanity Defined

Creation: The Meaning of “Image of God.”

- The Hebrew terms *tselem* and *demût* both denote something that is similar but not identical to that which it represents. (Gen 1:26-27; 5:3)
- Implication: Every human being has intrinsic dignity

The Fall: God’s Image Is Distorted but Not Lost.

- Man is not as fully like God as he was before—his moral purity has been lost and his sinful character does not reflect God’s holiness.
- Human beings still possess the image of God. (Gen 9:6; Jas 3:9)

Humanity Defined

Redemption in Christ: A Progressive Recovering of More of God's Image. (Col 3:10; 2 Cor 3:18)

At Christ's Return: Complete Restoration of God's Image. (1 Cor 15:49; Rom 8:29; 1 Jn 3:2)

Man, Male and Female

Gen 1:27: So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. (ESV) (cf. Gen 5:2)

The creation of man as male and female shows God's image in:

- (1) **Unity** - Harmonious interpersonal relationships within plurality.
- (2) **Equality** - in personhood and importance.
- (3) **Distinction** - in role and authority.

Man, Male and Female

Unity - God created human beings in such a way that we can attain interpersonal unity of various sorts:

- The human family
- Marriage (Gen 2:24; 1 Cor 7:3-5; Eph 5:23-32)
- The church (Gal 4:19; 1 Tim 1:2; Titus 1:4)

That we are male and female reflects the plurality of persons in the Trinity. (Gen 1:26)

Man, Male and Female

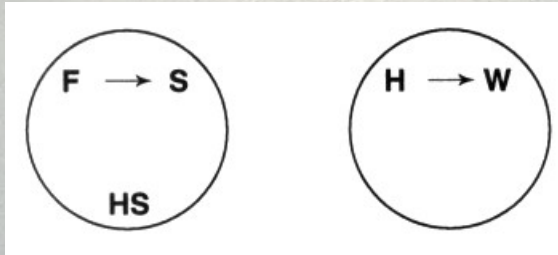
Equality - Men and women are made equally in God's image and both reflect God's character in their lives.

- Both are equally important.
- Both are equally valuable.
- Implication: We should honor one another. (Prov 31:10, 28-30; 1 Pet 3:7; 1 Cor 11:11-12)

Man, Male and Female

Distinction: Men and women have different roles within marriage and the church.

1 Cor 11:3: But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God. (ESV)



Equality and differences in the Trinity are reflected in equality and differences in marriage.

Man, Male and Female

Indications of Distinct Roles Before the Fall.

- **Adam Was Created First, Then Eve.** (Gen 2:7, 18-23; 1 Tim 2:13)
- **Eve Was Created as a Helper for Adam.** (Gen 2:18; 1 Cor 11:9)
- **Adam Named Eve.** (Gen 2:23)
- **God Named the Human Race “Man,” Not “Woman.”** (Gen 5:2)

Man, Male and Female

Indications of Distinct Roles Before the Fall.

- **God Spoke to Adam First After the Fall.** (Gen 3:9)
- **Adam, Not Eve, Represented the Human Race.** (Rom 5:15; 1 Cor 15:22, 49)
- **The Curse Brought a Distortion of Previous Roles, Not the Introduction of New Roles.** (Gen 3:16-19)
 - Eve gained a desire to rebel against Adam.
 - Adam's authority became harsh rather than loving.
- **Redemption in Christ Reaffirms the Creation Order.** (Col 3:18-19; Eph 5:22-33; Titus 2:5; 1 Pet 3:1-7)

Man, Male and Female

The Question of Application to the Church. (1 Tim 2:11-15)

- Egalitarians hold that no governing or teaching roles in the church should be reserved for men.
- Complementarianism hold that the governing and teaching role (elder/pastor) in the church should be reserved for men.

Divinity Meets Humanity

Psalm 8

- Man has Humility.
- Man has Dignity.

Hebrews 2:6-9

- Christ has Humility.
- Christ has Dignity.
- Divinity met Humanity in the person of Christ.