

HUMANS SIN AND GOD RESTORES

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OVERVIEW OF THEORIES ABOUT SIN

PREMISSES

1. Goodness of creation
2. God's love manifested
3. Free Will
4. Original Sin
5. Physical transmission of #4
6. Sin changes us; but not God
7. God's love abides forever and does not cease
8. Man is reconciled to God
9. Neither sin nor death have the final word
10. Sin is an attitude or action that expresses an aversion from God's way and a moving apart from God (separation)
11. The truth and reality of humanity is that we are both (sinners and redeemed)
12. The truth of us is stated in the brackets above and we should live accordingly

DIFFERENCES

1. Neutral
2. God as clockmaker
3. Corrupted from the beginning
4. Original Blessing
5. We acquire the habit
6. Sin creates an unpayable debt
7. God's love is conditional; depending on our goodness
8. God is reconciled to man
9. We lose our souls
10. Sin is setting up any "false idol" in our minds or hearts or actions that we "adore"
11. Sin sets in place false idols - assumptions which, at best, are only partially true
12. The search for truth is distorted by conclusions which deny either the supremacy of God or the sinfulness of humans

(Over please)

PART II CRUCIFIXION AND RESTORATION

1. Problem statement: Pilate, the crowds, and us
2. Crucifixion: Trial and Punishment
 - A. The charges: all stemming from his life and teachings
 - B. The punishment: brutal, demeaning, common with the Romans
3. Theories of Explanations for crucifixion
 - A. No uniform theories in the Gospels
 - B. Metaphorical theories developed using analogies:
 - Redeeming of a slave
 - Substitution in cultic sacrifice – scapegoat
 - Reparation – broken laws require penalties
 - Debt payment – debt incurred requires payment
4. Critique of the above (#3)

These metaphors are useful but inadequate expressions.
They are too weak to describe the real issues.

5. Asking a better question: Who died and what died?
 - A. The one who died was both (human and divine). He was absolutely faithful in presenting God's "new way", "new life" (from above) and the culture could not tolerate him. His newness was fatally offensive to their old ways (status quo)
 - B. The power of the world's evil was put to death that day. The darkness of the world's sin was trying to overcome his light and was doomed to failure. Christ knew full well that the only way to bring about the ending of the power of sin and evil was to die in its context and because of it and to, thereby, pull it into the grave with him. He did not take away humans' capacity to choose sin lest he take away the capacity to choose love and truth and goodness. He confirmed the power of God to provide sufficient grace and forgiveness. He did not abolish death, not even his own, but confirmed death as the way into the alternative of fullness of life in God, the Father and Creator of all.
 - C. St. Paul's summary: "For since death (the effective symbol of ultimate separation) came through a human being; for as in Adam all die, so in Christ will all be made be made alive" (1 Cor. 15: 21-22)