

An Overview of the Doctrine of Salvation – Imputation

Introduction: What does the word “imputation” mean? How is it most commonly used?

I. Imputation: Adam to Mankind

- A. The doctrine of imputation teaches that mankind is brought into the world sinful.
 - 1. “We are not sinful because we sin,
 - 2. “We sin because we are sinful”
- B. What does this tell us of the hope of reforming man through education?
- C. What does this tell us of the hope of perfection through effort or works?

PSA 51:5 Behold, **I was brought forth in iniquity**, And in sin my other conceived me.

ROM 5:16 ... the **judgment arose from one transgression** resulting in condemnation....

ROM 5:17 For if by **the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one...**

ROM 5:18 So then as **through one transgression there resulted condemnation** to all men...

ROM 5:19 For as through **the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners...**

GEN 8:21 ... the Lord said to Himself, "...**the intent of man's heart is evil from his youth**; ...

PSA 58:3 **The wicked are estranged from the womb**; These who speak lies **go astray from birth**.

1CO 15:21 & 22 For since by a man came death...**For as in Adam all die...**

II. Imputation: Mankind to Christ

- A. Christ's death on the cross
 - 1. Was not a good man dying for a good cause
 - 2. It was more than just God dying, as if this were not enough.
- B. What do these verses teach us about what happened to Christ on the cross?
 - 1. What did He experience while He hung on the cross? Is this even conceivable to us?
 - 2. How many of your sins were placed on Christ on the cross?
 - 3. How can sins you have not committed be placed on Christ?
- C. What then did God do to Christ as a result of this imputed sin
 - 1. Much has been made of the physical torture of Christ during His Passion.
 - 2. This torture was experienced by thousands upon thousands of men.
 - 3. What was unique about Christ's suffering on the cross

ISA 53:6 ... But the Lord has caused the **iniquity of us all To fall on Him**.

Isa 53:11-12 ... the Righteous One, My servant, **will justify the many, as He will bear their iniquities**. ... He poured out himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; **yet He himself bore the sin of many**, and interceded for the transgressors.

2CO 5:21 He made Him who knew no sin **to be sin on our behalf...**

HEB 9:28 so Christ also, having been **offered once to bear the sins of many...**

1PE 2:24 and He Himself **bore our sins in His body** on the cross, ...

III. Imputation: Christ to Mankind

- A. If Imputation stopped with our sin going to Christ would this be enough?
- B. How long would it take you, like Adam to fall from your sinless state and sin again.?
- C. What do these passages tell us about the final stage of imputation?

ROM 3:21 & 22 ... **the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ** for all those who believe; for there is no distinction;

I Corinthians 1:30-31 **But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption**, that, just as it is written, "Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord."

1CO 2:16 ... **But we have the mind of Christ**

2CO 5:21 ..., **that we might become the righteousness of God in Him**.

GAL 3:27 For all of you who were baptized into Christ **have clothed yourselves with Christ**.

2PE 1:4 For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, **in order that by them you might become partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.

IV. What are it's applications?

A. The Virgin birth –

1. Why did this have to be put in the Bible?
2. If Christ was not born of a virgin, what would He carry with Him at his birth?

B. Our view of mankind and of salvation

“We are not sinful because we sin,

“We sin because we are sinful”

Every Christian has a gross and disgusting testimony

C. How does this relate to our eternal security, the fact that we can never loose our salvation?

1. Our initial state of depravity is based on the imputed sin of Adam, not our works
2. Our salvation is based on the imputed sin of Christ, not our works
3. How does this help you understand the “that no one should boast” clause in Ephesians 2:9?

D. Our view of primitive “unspoiled” population groups.

1. Christianity is not seeking to return mankind to his pristine spiritual condition at birth
2. The “unspoiled” population group is a myth. All cultures and all groups of people share in the sin of Adam.

E. Intimacy in marriage –

1. What was the sin of Adam?
2. Did it have anything to do with intimacy between man and wife?
3. Does Adam’s sin reflect in anyway on intimacy in marriage?
4. How is PSA 51:5 wrongly interpreted by the Catholic church because of their failure to embrace the doctrine of imputation? “Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.”
5. Given an understanding of imputation, rather than intimacy in marriage, what is the Holy Spirit speaking of in this verse?

F. The behavior of children –

1. Are children basically good?
2. Do they learn to sin from their environment?
3. Will the right environment keep children from sinning?
4. How does the doctrine of Imputation help you understand Proverbs 22:15 “Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; the rod of discipline will remove it far from him.”
 - a. Imputation
“We are not sinful because we sin,
“We sin because we are sinful”
 - b. Proverbs 22:15
“A child does not become foolish by his foolish actions”
“A child acts foolish because foolishness is bound up in his very nature”