



By: Oswald Chambers (words in italics added to the original text) October 5, 2011

Sin is not wrong doing but wrong being – will I die, in Christ, to that wrong being?

Rom 5:12 ...Through one man (*Adam*) sin (*independence from God*) entered the world and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned. *Isa 53:6* All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way...

The Bible does not say that God punished the human race for Adam's sin, but that the nature of sin, namely, my claim to my right to myself, entered the human race through Adam – and we each have since chosen to live in that nature, in independence from God. But the Bible also says that another Man (*Jesus*) took upon Himself the sin (*nature*) of the human race and put it away (*through His death*) - an infinitely more important revelation:-

Heb 9:26 ...**He (Christ) has appeared, to put away sin, by the sacrifice of Himself.**

Rom 6:10 **For the death that He died, He died to sin (to independence from God)...**

The nature of sin is not immorality and wrongdoing, it is **wrong being**, it is the nature of self-realization which leads us to say, "I am my own god". This nature may exhibit itself in proper morality or in improper immorality, but it always has a common basis — my claim to my right to myself. When our Lord faced either people with all the forces of evil in them or people who were clean-living, moral, and upright, He paid no attention to the moral degradation of one, nor any attention to the moral attainment of the other. He looked at something we do not see, namely, the *sin* nature of man - *that we inherit from our parents*.

John 2:24-25 **But Jesus didn't trust them, because he knew what people were really like. No one needed to tell him about human nature (or flesh).** NLT

(*Sin, singular, refers to my corrupt human nature that demands to rule itself; it is this nature that can't help doing lots of things contrary to God's will; these are sins, plural*). Sin (*as a nature*) is something I am born with and cannot *change*; only God *can give me His own sin-free nature* through redemption. It is through the Cross of Christ that God redeemed the entire human race from the possibility of damnation through *inheriting a sin nature*. God nowhere holds a person responsible for *inheriting a sin nature*, and does not condemn anyone because of it. Condemnation comes when I realize that Jesus Christ came to deliver me from this *inherited sin nature of self*, and yet I refuse to let Him do so. From that moment I begin to get the seal of damnation. **This is the condemnation that the light has come into the world and men loved darkness rather than light...**Jo 3:19

To not be condemned, I must be freed from my sin nature of self-will by receiving Christ's sin-free nature into my heart, through God's words and God's Spirit. Then to keep living in Christ's new nature, I must believe I am dead, through Christ's death, to my sin nature.

*Col 3:3 ...**You have died** (to your claim to your right to yourself) **and your life is hidden with Christ in God** (because you believe your sin nature was crucified with Christ).*