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## **THE SURE WORD by Jonnie Hutchison**

### **Article Title:**

#### **ARE YOU GUILTY OF ADAM'S SIN?**

The sin of Adam and Eve is recorded in the book of Genesis chapter three. Both yielded to the temptation of the devil, transgressing God's spiritual law, and sin was the result (1 John 3:4). Some teach that the guilt of Adam's sin is passed down to each successive generation. In other words, every baby born into the world is born with the guilt of Adam's sin as a part of his or her very nature being "totally depraved." This writer believes this doctrine to be totally false.

One of the consequences which necessarily follow if babies are born with the guilt of Adam's sin is that every baby born into this world is spiritually lost. The Bible teaches that "the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23) and that sin separates one from God (Isaiah 59:1-2). If babies are born in sin, then they are born separated and alienated from God. Yet, Jesus used a little child to illustrate the character that is necessary for those who would enter the kingdom: "Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven'" (Matthew 18:2-4). Did Jesus not know that this little child was "totally depraved"? Did He not know that babies are born sinners? The truth is that Jesus knew this little child had neither committed sin himself nor did he inherit the guilt of Adam's sin. This child was innocent and humble and was the perfect illustration for the point Jesus was making.

There is simply no passage that warrants the conclusion that the guilt of sin may be passed from one person to another. The Bible teaches that each person is accountable to God for the sins he or she commits. Note the principle clearly stated by the prophet Ezekiel in Ezekiel 18:20, "The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself." I am not guilty of the sin of Adam. I am guilty of the sins that I commit. The Bible explains this in Romans 5:12, "Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned." Death has not passed upon all because all inherit the guilt of Adam's sin, but rather, because all have committed their own sins.

Please join us for a special event on Saturday August 18<sup>th</sup>, "Golden Ways for Golden Days - A Study on Aging for All Ages." See our webpage for detailed info [grenplainchurchofchrist.org](http://grenplainchurchofchrist.org).