

## **THE SIN BARRIER**

**Request:** Would you please explain the SIN BARRIER and how and when it is removed?

Sin Barrier is a doctrinal term for Adam's Original Sin (AOS) and the fall of mankind.

Westminster confession says, "Our first parents being the root of all mankind, the guilt of their sin was imputed, and the same death in sin and corrupted nature were conveyed to all their posterity, descending from them by ordinary generation." (SystematicTheology by Charles Hodges, pg.289)

"The ground of the imputation of Adam's sin, or the reason why the penalty of his sin has come upon all his posterity, according to the doctrine above stated, is the union between us and Adam."

"The Scriptures never speak of the imputation of the sins of angels either to men or to Christ, or of the imputation of His righteousness to angels, or to angels; for there is no such relation between men and angels, or between angels and Christ, as to involve the one in the judicial consequences of the sin or righteousness of the other. The union between Adam and his descendants which is the ground of the imputation of his sin to them is both natural and federal." (Chas. Hodges, pg.291)

The doctrinal concept of federal heads of the unsaved and the saved was taught by Paul in 1 Cor.15:45 – "So it is written: 'the first Adam became a living being; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit.'" (NIV/ reference; Gen.2:7)

"The chief argument in favor of the doctrine of imputation is that the Scriptures present Adam as not only the natural head of his posterity, but also the federal head of his posterity." (Hodges, pg.292)

"For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive." (1 Cor.15: 22/ positional truth)

<b>This lesson will study FIVE aspects of the SIN BARRIER.</b>
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**1. Adam's fall resulted in the judicial penalty of AOS being imputed to the human race. We will refer to this doctrinally as the Sin Barrier (Rom.5:12-21).**

"Because Adam was the representative of his race, his sin is the judicial ground of the condemnation; and because Christ is the representative of His people His righteousness is the judicial ground of the justification of believers." (Hodges, pg.292)

Adam sinned volitionally; but as his progeny, we are made a sinner (AOS imputation) (Rom.5: 19).

Read Rom.5:15-21 and write the differences between Adam's TRANSGRESSION and Christ's GIFT.

TRANSGRESSION \_\_\_\_\_

GIFT \_\_\_\_\_

**2. The judicial penalty of AOS (Sin Barrier) prevents mankind from having a relationship with a holy God (Rom.3:10-12, 23; Matt.5:20; Isa.64:6)**

There are 13 judicial charges imputed to all mankind as a result of AOS.

Alienation (Eph.2: 12-13,19)	Darkness (Acts 26:18)	Ungodly (Rom.5: 6)
Blindness (2 Cor.4: 4)	Enmity (Rom.5: 10)	Unrighteous (Rom.3: 10-12)
Condemned (Rom.8: 1)	Natural (1 Cor.2: 14)	Wrath (John 3:36)
Cursed (Gal.3: 13)	Perish (John 3:19)	
Death (Rom.5: 12)	Sinner (1 Tim.1: 15; Rom.5: 8)	

**3. Jesus Christ was the ONLY member of the human race not born under Sin Barrier of AOS. This qualified Him to become the redeemer of all those under the slave market of sin (Sin Barrier) (Eph.1:7).**

Virgin birth and hypostatic union qualified Jesus at birth to become the Savior of mankind from AOS (Luke 1:34-35; Phil.2:5-11).

Impeccability qualified Jesus at death to become the Savior of mankind (2 Cor.5:21; 1 John 3:5; Heb.4:15) – “For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering.” (Rom.8:3)

**4. Jesus Christ qualified to be become the sacrificial substitute to remove mankind from the Sin Barrier of AOS (2 Cor.5: 21; 1 John 2:2; John 1:29,36; 1 Pet.1: 18-19; 2:24; 3:18).**

The only way for a person under AOS (-R) to have relationship with a holy God is to have a righteousness (+R) equal to that of God (Rom.5:17-21; 9:30-33) – “so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous (imputed +R).” (Rom.5:19a)

As the only begotten Son of God, Jesus Christ is able to provide the righteousness of God – “This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through redemption that came by Christ Jesus.” (Rom.3:22-24)

“The idea of the transfer of guilt or of vicarious punishment lies at the foundation of all the expiatory offerings in the OT and the great atonement under the new dispensation. To express the transfer of guilt, hands were imposed upon the head of the animal about to be slaughtered. That animal had to be free from all defect or blemish to make it the more apparent that its blood was shed not for its own deficiencies but for the sin of another. The innocent takes the place of the guilty and bears the penalty.” (Hodges, pg.294)

**5. Man’s role in removal from the Sin Barrier is faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ (John 3:16, 36; 1 Cor.15: 3-4; Rom.1: 16).**

The value of faith is that the working object that the gospel has the sole responsibility of removing every believer from the Sin Barrier by grace salvation (Gal.2: 16; Eph.2: 8-9; Rom.3: 21-26; 4:4-5).

**“But we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, in the same way as they also are.” (Acts 15:11)**