

July 19, 2012

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

This morning we continue our examination of what we believe as Anglican Christians. Last week we examined the Nicene, Athanasian & Apostles' Creeds as being an authentic and sufficient statement of faith in the Anglican Church.

Today we look at Article 9 of the Articles of Religion On the concept of Original Sin . . . **"Original sin is not found merely in the following of Adam's example (as the Pelagians foolishly say). It is rather to be seen in the fault and corruption which is found in the nature of every person who is naturally descended from Adam. The consequence of this is that man is far gone from his original state of righteousness. In his own nature he is predisposed to evil, the sinful nature in man always desiring to behave in a manner contrary to the Spirit. In every person born into this world there is found this predisposition which rightly deserves God's anger and condemnation. This infection within man's nature persists even within those who are regenerate (Born Again). This desire of the sinful nature, which in Greek is called *fronema sarkos* and is variously translated the wisdom or sensuality or affection or desire of the sinful nature, is not under control of God's law. Although there is no condemnation for those that believe and are baptized, nevertheless the apostle states that any such desire is sinful."**

It may surprise you to learn that this doctrine of Original Sin—and our corrupt/fallen nature—is an essential aspect of being a Christian. Why? Because if we do not understand and accept our being sinners and by our very nature unable to save ourselves then we will fall into the lie of believing that: "we're really not all that bad." In fact, I would argue that the doctrine of Original Sin and the Corrupt Nature of Man is the most counter cultural aspect of Christianity.

This doctrine runs counter to the popular belief that we are all "good." Of course, what is meant by "good" is really "decent" - meaning that we don't harm anyone else. This concept took a major leap forward in the early 1970's with the book by Thomas Harris *I'm OK You're*



OK. The major point of the book is that through "Transactional Analysis" counseling and therapy we can come to the position of accepting our natural goodness and thereby accept the natural goodness of everyone else. We as Christians argue just the opposite. I'm not OK, I am a sinner in need of salvation and so are you! This moves the center of attention from the actions of self to the saving action of Jesus on the Cross who paid the penalty meant for us and opened salvation to all believers! It is only when we can humbly accept our true nature that we can truly seek the help we need found in Jesus Christ! Ultimately, I should write a book entitled "I'm all Messed Up and So are You!"

Bishop Menees

Diocesan Calendar

- July 21st** - Diocesan Council @ 10:00 a.m.
- July 22nd** - Bishop @ St. Jude's in Tehachapi
- July 24th - July 28th** - Camp San Joaquin High School Camp
- July 29th - August 2nd** - Camp San Joaquin Youth Camp
- August 3rd-5th** - Anglican Women's Retreat
- August 5th** - Bishop @ St. Timothy's in Bishop
- August 9-10** - Provincial Hispanic Ministry Conference. at the Cathedral, "Caminemos Juntos"
- August 11th** - Standing Committee
- August 12th** - Bishop @ Christ Church in Oakhurst
- August 18th** - Diocesan Council @ 10 a.m.
- August 19th** - Bishop @ St. Martin's in Fresno
Laotian and Spanish Congregations
- August 26th** - Bishop @ Church of Resurrection in Placentia
- October 5-7th** - Clergy Wives Retreat @ ECCO
- October 27th** - Honored Women's Luncheon
- November 2-3** - Diocesan Convention @ St. James Cathedral

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