

## Belgic Confession, Article 15, “Of Original Sin”

Scripture Lesson: Romans 5:12-21

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| <b>Lesson Aim</b>        | To understand how mankind is desperately lost because of original sin but is saved because of the imputation of Christ’s righteousness.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Steps to Learning</b> | Read Belgic Confession, Article 15 and Romans 5:12-21. Discuss the sermon and the particulars of the lesson below. It may be best to work through the material over several days or sessions.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Discuss</b>           | <p><b>What is the definition of original sin?</b><br/>It is Adam’s sin imputed to all people.</p> <p><b>What does it mean that Adam’s sin was imputed to all people?</b><br/>When Adam sinned, God declared that all people, legally speaking, are sinners by nature.</p> <p><b>What is the consequence of being a sinner by nature?</b><br/>All people actually sin because they are sinners.</p> <p><b>What is sin?</b><br/>Transgressing (breaking) God’s Law and not living up to its demands.</p> <p><b>What is the punishment for sin?</b><br/>Physical and spiritual death. Spiritual death means that a person is punished in hell for eternity.</p> <p><b>What biblical texts do we look to for the discussion of original sin?</b><br/>Genesis chapter 2 and Romans 5:12-18 (1 Cor. 15:22).</p> <p><b>How is a person saved from spiritual death or from hell?</b><br/>Through faith in Jesus Christ.</p> <p><b>What happens when a person has faith in Jesus Christ?</b><br/>The righteousness of Jesus Christ is imputed to him so that he is declared to be righteous in God’s sight while still personally sinful.</p> <p><b>What is justification?</b><br/>A person is justified when he has faith in Christ, which means his sins are not counted against him and he is imputed with the righteousness of Christ.</p> |
| <b>Bible Reading</b>     | 1 Samuel 8-13 (covering the great Bible stories)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |