

Dear Steve,

Thank you for writing us at Christian Questions Radio. You questioned what our basis was for stating that we are born in sin and referenced Romans 5. You said you realized that we all sin, but that our sinning is not the same as being born in sin.

When God created Adam, he was perfect. Once Adam sinned, he lost his perfection and God put the curse of death not only on him, but also on all his descendants. Since that time, no one, except Jesus, has been born perfect. When we look at a newborn baby, we may see purity and innocence, for the child has committed no sin. Yet this child has inherited a sinful nature just as surely as he has inherited skin, hair or eye color and is destined to commit his own sins as a result of that inheritance. We can, therefore, say he is "born in sin." All of us are physically, intellectually, emotionally, and morally flawed from the moment we are conceived. "Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me." (Psalm 51:5) No matter how hard we try we cannot overcome the curse of imperfection and subsequent death that we have inherited due to the original sin of our first parents, Adam and Eve. Besides our inherited debilitating sinful natures, we also commit our own personal sins, some deliberate and some unintentional, everyday of our lives. It is for this reason that we approach the throne of heavenly grace daily, seeking forgiveness.

Jesus' mission on earth as a perfect human was to redeem the fallen race by dying as a ransom for Adam and all of his progeny. "For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive." (I Corinthians 15:22) Had Jesus sinned in any way, his sacrifice would not have been acceptable to God. But Jesus did not sin and his death and resurrection freed the entire human race from the curse of death and opened the way for a select group of followers, the "little flock," to reign with him in heaven. Once this heavenly class is completed, blessings will flow to the entire world of mankind. All who ever lived will come forth from their graves without the inherited sin from Adam and have an opportunity for everlasting life on a perfected earth, provided they obey God's laws. If they do not, they will die a second time for their own sins. (See 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9.) "In those days people will no longer say, 'The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are on edge.' Instead, everyone will die for his own sin." (Jeremiah 31:29-30) This trial period will last 1000 years and is often referred to as the Millennium. At the end of this time of judgment, peace and friendship between God and man will be restored as it was prior to Adam's fall. "Then will I purify the lips of the peoples, that all of them may call on the name of the LORD and serve him shoulder to shoulder." (Zephaniah 3:9)

We hope we have clarified the difference between being born in sin and personally committing sins. Romans 5:12 refers to the sin we inherited from Adam. "Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned." Romans 5:18-19 tells us that we have been redeemed from this inherited sin by Jesus' sacrifice. "So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men; even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. For as through one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous."

Sincerely,  
Christian Questions Radio