

THE STEWARDSHIP PAPERS

Free Will

In the beginning, God created us in his own image. We were given, among other things, the ability to choose...free will. We could choose to do God's will (i.e., not eat the "fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil" ^[Gen. 2:17]) or to do as we choose..."Thy will" vs. "mine." Obviously, we chose to do as we pleased.

I've heard people talk in terms of little tiny babies having the original sin, and could never see how such small bundles of inexperience could possibly have any sin connected with them...until I thought about this "free will" business. After all, what was the original sin? Wasn't it, simply, "My will be done" instead of "Thine"? And, as any parent can tell you, from the moment a tiny baby is born, it's "I want, I want, I want", or in the vernacular of a two year old I know, "**MINE!!!!**"

We are also told that the original sin caused death. But, what is death? Isn't it "separation"? And, as in Adam, isn't it a separation from God?

In direct opposition to Adam (and Eve), who chose "My will be done," we have Jesus, who chose "Thy will be done," thereby negating the mess caused by Adam, if we choose (and there's that old "choose" again) to follow him.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." ^[John 3:16]

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No separation (!) between God and ourselves.

So, whereas the original sin (My will be done) caused death, faith in Jesus (and, therefore, in "God's will be done") causes eternal life.

Adam and Eve may have "fallen," but thank God that Jesus "arose"!

(Written, April 27, 1979. Edited, November 4, 2012.)