

“Guilty as Charged” **Rom. 3:9-20**

- That one does not know what he ought to do (what is right) – Rom. 2:14-15.
 - That the unsaved person commits every form of sin. “We all violate God’s commandments in thought, but not all of them in action.”
- IX. We must have divine enablement in order to be saved. We have no ability in ourselves to save ourselves.
- Divine enablement is necessary to understand the gospel. The Holy Spirit makes this possible.
 - Divine enablement is necessary to believe in Christ (“calling”). The Holy Spirit invites and brings the sinner to Christ.
 - Divine enablement is necessary to be made alive spiritually (regeneration – “regeneration is a secret act of God in which he imparts new spiritual life to us” W. Grudem) – Jn. 3:3-8.
- I. The Bible teaches that all have sinned. Sin is a universal problem. Every human being is infected with it (Eph. 2:1-2).
- It is a condition from which we are unable to deliver ourselves.
 - The sinner is by nature an object of God’s wrath.
- II. Sin has affected our total being (body, soul, and spirit) – intellect (2 Cor. 4:4), conscience (1 Tim. 4:2), will (Rom. 1:28), heart (Eph. 4:18).
- Sin is not merely an imperfection.
 - Our rebellion against God is total.
 - Because of the natural man’s condition in sin he is “unable to make a single move toward God.”
 - Man the sinner has a corrupt mind (the mind, the source of all rational thought).

- ▶ Man the sinner has a corrupt will. Sin is not merely a moral habit, a psychological illness, or a behavioral disorder.
 - ▶ Man the sinner has corrupt affections (emotions) – “The emotions express moral judgments of the sinful mind and the motive of the will.” (M. Murphy)
- III. We are sinners by imputation (“to attribute as coming from another,” i.e., Adam’s sin charged to our account), inheritance, and action. We are born sinners.
- ▶ Man the sinner inherits the guilt of Adam’s sin (Rom. 5:12), and is by nature a child of wrath (Eph. 2:3).
- IV. We can do nothing to please God in ourselves, i.e., “nothing within the natural man that can give man merit in God’s sight.”
- ▶ Man the sinner cannot save himself. He is hopeless and helpless (Rom. 7:18; Eph. 2:8; 2 Pet. 2:14).
- V. Man hates God and without the restraints of God’s government would go from bad to worse.
- ▶ God’s restraints of sin are a testimony to man’s nature.
 - ▶ God’s restraints: human government, presence of believers in this world, sin itself and its awful consequences, conscience and the fear of getting caught
- VI. We all have the ability to commit the worst sins (under favorable conditions).
- ▶ The roots are there (like a garden). All sorts of sin are there. They may be well beneath the surface of the soil, but the roots are still there.
- VII. Man can do good things for his fellow man. We can do things which benefit others, but can never in himself do things for God’s glory alone.
- ▶ Human goodness is like a canoe.
- VIII. Human sinfulness does not mean:
- ▶ That everyone is as bad as they can become (2 Tim. 3:13), or that all have made the same progress in sinning.