

# Responsibility Predicates Retribution

## Accountability to a Law is the Bases for Judgment

By: David A. Sargent

Responsibility is the accountability for actions and those actions produce a retribution or reprisal or reckoning. Without an established responsibility or accountability for actions there can be no sentence executed in retribution or reprisal or the judge would be quite unjust. If you cannot understand the law you cannot be guilty of the law. I did NOT say if you did not KNOW the law. Just because you did not know the law is no excuse for not understanding it. If you CAN understand the law but not know it when you COULD, then you are at fault for not finding out. However if you cannot KNOW the law because you cannot understand the law that is very different: a child of 1 year old cannot understand the law; they cannot understand words, sentences or letters; it is therefore impossible for them to understand the law. Now IF they cannot understand the law then the law is not alive to them but dead. And they are without the law being innocent or in innocence. Romans 4:15, “Because the law worketh wrath: for **where no law is, there is no transgression.**” How can you transgress against a law that is not there? 1 John 3:4, “Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: **for sin is the transgression of the law.**” Responsibility predicates retribution.

If mankind is spiritually dead they had to get in that condition by their sins after they understood the law and disobeyed that law. Ignorance of the law is no excuse; but innocence of the law is. Romans 5:13, “For until the law sin was in the world: but **sin is not imputed when there is no law.**” When I say ignorance I am talking about a person that COULD understand the law but chooses not to pursue it in knowledge. When I say innocence of the law I am talking about a person that cannot understand the law regardless of any choice they could make. Someone without the ability of a 2 year old while at the age of 40 that cannot understand remains in innocence. To whatever degree of that innocence is: God knows; he remains without the law.

To understand this you must believe what the Bible says about it and not what you have been taught. Here we must stress that the Bible has the clues to these things but history has recorded many that would subvert the Bible and suppress the truth with their own teachings and insist that there is such a thing as “original sin” or “total depravity”. While there is some precedence for an original sin, there is no doctrines that suggest this sin itself is transmitted to the offspring. What I am talking about is the sin itself; not the sinfulness. So in like manner the deadness of Adam wherewith that first sin brought; did not pass as a dead spirit; but only the

sentence of death to those that thereafter would sin. Thereby their own sin would bring their own death in them. 2 Corinthians 1:9-10, “But **we had the sentence of death in ourselves**, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead: Who **delivered us from so great a death**, and **doth deliver**: in whom we trust that **he will yet deliver us...**” There are three deliverances from death.

1. You must be born again: deliverance from the dead spirit, this happens ONCE and afterwards is in the past; but it is the first deliverance.
2. The present deliverance from death is to keep a clean conscience and fellowship with God so we do not die early before our time.
3. The future deliverance from the grave at the resurrection from the dead.

Now let's find out what or who KILLED your spirit? Adam could not pass down a missing rib! That is actually a scientific fact. Men have the same number of ribs as women. He did not pass down his own sin or his own dead spirit. His dead spirit died in the day he sinned. Adam was never a child in innocence and he understood the only law that he had: don't eat from that tree. Disobedience was Adam's transgression; blatantly disobeying God with forethought and knowledge aforetime (Romans 5:14). He was personally guilty of his own sin. Eve on the other hand was deceived (1 Timothy 2:14). Her sin was very different. But the affect was the same; she also died in the day she ate from that tree.

Genesis 2:16-17, “And the LORD God **commanded** the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But **of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.**” So it was in the day that Adam ate from that tree he would die. So what died? Not his body. Not his soul. What's left? His spirit died to God. It is not like death of a mortal body at the end of physical life. Death in that the spirit was totally out of fellowship with God. In this the spirit of Adam was totally depraved. But that is only 1/3 of what Adam was. He was made a body, a soul and a spirit. (1 Thessalonians 5:23) So what was Adam prior to that fall? Was he sinless? NO not exactly! He was innocent; just like a child. If Adam was sinless, he would have never sinned. Did Adam have a sin nature? NO! But he sinned anyway? Yep! Adam was never a child: Adam was an adult and was made with built in age. Were any of his children born adults? NO! Why would a child be at fault for what Adam did? If Adam's sin passed to the child then the child would be guilty for eating from that tree. It was not Adam's sin in particular that passed to the next person in that generation. Sin passed to the next generation; but not Adam's sin. This is what is a bit confusing it seems. Ok; so why do you die? Death was also passed down

from Adam. But it is not Adam's death that was passed down. Death passed as a sentence. 2 Corinthians 1:9, "But **we had the sentence of death in ourselves**, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead..." And the sentence is stayed until there is an understanding of a law.

Romans 5:12-14, "Wherefore, as **by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin**; and **so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned**: For **until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law**. Nevertheless **death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression**, who is the figure of him that was to come."

So by Adam sin entered into the WORLD and DEATH BY SIN. So it was DEATH and not a DEAD SPIRIT that passed upon all men from Adam. WHY? Was it because of Adam's sin? NO! "...for that all have sinned..." It is YOUR fault that you sin. Now what I am talking about is your soul; the YOU inside. The one who is responsible for your own sin; this responsibility predicates the nature of your spirit because by the nature of your spirit your soul goes to heaven or it goes to hell.

Luke 16:19-31, "There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels **into Abraham's bosom**: the rich man also died, and was buried; And **in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom**. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; **for I am tormented in this flame**. But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and **thou art tormented**. And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence. Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into **this place of torment**. Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. And he said unto him, **If they hear not**

**Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.”**

So if your spirit is dead to God you are going DOWN. 1 Corinthians 15:46-48, “Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but **that which is natural**; and afterward that which is spiritual. **The first man is of the earth, earthy**: the second man is the Lord from heaven. **As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy**: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly.” And Genesis 3:19, “In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, **till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.**” But the soul is not physical; and it goes down too: Ezekiel 31:14-18, “**To the end** that none of all the trees by the waters exalt themselves for their height, neither shoot up their top among the thick boughs, neither their trees stand up in their height, all that drink water: **for they are all delivered unto death, to the nether parts of the earth, in the midst of the children of men, with them that go down to the pit.** Thus saith the Lord GOD; **In the day when he went down to the grave I caused a mourning**: I covered the deep for him, and I restrained the floods thereof, and the great waters were stayed: and I caused Lebanon to mourn for him, and all the trees of the field fainted for him. I made the nations to shake at the sound of his fall, **when I cast him down to hell with them that descend into the pit**: and all the trees of Eden, the choice and best of Lebanon, all that drink water, shall be comforted **in the nether parts of the earth. They also went down into hell with him** unto them that be slain with the sword; and they that were his arm, that dwelt under his shadow in the midst of the heathen. To whom art thou thus like in glory and in greatness among the trees of Eden? yet shalt thou be brought down with the trees of Eden unto **the nether parts of the earth**: thou shalt lie in the midst of the uncircumcised with them that be slain by the sword. This is Pharaoh and all his multitude, saith the Lord GOD.” Souls go to hell without the Lord’s grace and mercy. Deuteronomy 32:22, “**For a fire is kindled in mine anger, and shall burn unto the lowest hell**, and shall consume the earth with her increase, and set on fire the foundations of the mountains.” And Psalms 9:17, “**The wicked shall be turned into hell**, and all the nations that forget God.” And Psalms 55:15, “Let death seize upon them, and **let them go down quick into hell**: for wickedness is in their dwellings, and among them.” And Psalms 86:13, “For **great is thy mercy toward me: and thou hast delivered my soul from the lowest hell.**” Proverbs 15:11, “**Hell and destruction are before the LORD**: how much more then the hearts of the children of men?” God has warning after warning about hell; because God does not want you to go

there and provided a way to keep from going there. But men are stubborn, self-willed, they have hardened their hearts, and will not fear God: Isaiah 14:15, “**Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.**” You will fear God then when it is too late! Matthew 10:28, “**And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.**”

Now go back to 1 Corinthians 15:46-48, “Howbeit that was **not first which is spiritual**, but that which is natural; and **afterward that which is spiritual**. The first man is of the earth, earthy: **the second man is the Lord from heaven**. As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and **as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly.**” The other side of the coin: If your spirit is alive to God you go UP. The first birth was not good because Adam was created with a soul stuck to a body: Genesis 2:7, “**And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.**” And Colossians 2:11, “**In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ...**” and therefore what the body did, the soul was accountable for. So in the law there are stringent measures to keep the body clean and thereby keep the soul clean. The use of the word soul for body shows up so many times it seems almost like they are the same thing. Numbers 19:22, “**And whatsoever the unclean person toucheth shall be unclean; and the soul that toucheth it shall be unclean** until even.” But this is because what the body did, it affected the soul. When the person was able to understand the law, what the body did, affected the soul and that affected the spirit. That first sin in knowledge killed the spirit in you. Romans 7:7-13, “**What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet. But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin was dead. For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died. And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death. For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me. Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good. Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful.**” This matches Galatians 3:22-25, “**But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be**

**given to them that believe. But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.”**

Look back at Romans 5 again “...For **until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.**” So this is why there is innocence in a child where there is no law and therefore sin is NOT imputed. If sin is not imputed then the child is NOT GUILTY (which is what innocence means) and if they are NOT GUILTY; the death does not follow; which is the retribution for sin. This death would be spiritual death. However children still die physically.

So why do children physically die? See here you are asking why do they physically die and I was talking about the child spiritually or their spirit. Sin passed on everything that is in this world. You were born IN ADAM; you are wearing him on your soul. Your body is a sinner from birth but it is not DEAD from birth or they would put you to bed with a shovel. It is the nature of your soul that affects your spirit and then the nature of your spirit determines where your soul goes when your body dies. You were physically born in sin; after you get the knowledge of the law your sin kills your spirit; this has happened to everyone except ONE PERSON.

Here is the line of sin and death: James 1:14-15, “But **every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.**” This can be followed physically and spiritually.

The issue is you get tempted by being drawn away of your OWN lust; and when your OWN lust has conceived then that is when your OWN sin is brought forth. But sin is not finished until you physically die. So there is a sin NOT unto death; but this is the physical death. Not the death of the soul. So the spiritual side of us dies at some time during our childhood coming up of age. There is no set age for this as people mature individually. God knows.

There is no passage that says we are born dead. The classic Papist Roman and Calvinistic concept of what they call “original sin” dictates that it is Adam’s sin that passes on every man and therefore you are born dead in trespasses and sin. However the Bible does not say this. They are trying to quote this:

Ephesians 2:1-3, “And you hath he quickened, **who were dead in trespasses and sins**; Wherein in time past **ye walked according** to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the

children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past **in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath**, even as others.” No “born” in the passage! You have to walk “...according to the course of this world...” which a baby can’t do. You have to do this “...according to the prince of the power of the air...” and so you must be enticed, tempted, or coerced by a devil. Then that spirit must enter you and work in you to push you to do what you have been doing so that you will be guilty. “...the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience...” And as it turns out everyone gets the same treatment: “...Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.” And nowhere in this is the fault given to Adam; it is YOUR FAULT! Colossians 2:13-15, “And you, **being dead in your sins** and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having **forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;** And having **spoiled principalities** and **powers**, he made a shew of them openly, **triumphing over them** in it.”

Children sin and yet they are not charged for this sin. Not until they understand the law against their sin and that sin and the law slays their spirit. Romans 7:9-11, “For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died. And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death. For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me.”

You were born very much alive; and your name was in the book of life. If you died as an innocent child you would have gone to heaven. However, if you are reading and understanding this you are probably not a little child in dippers; and probably not innocent. The axe has already fallen because YOU sinned, and know it! See it is the devils that get in there and mess things up; but it is NOT their fault either. You have only one person to blame your sin on and that is you. You MUST admit that YOU are the sinner.

Rome and Calvin figured that because you are born dead in trespasses and sin then the child must be water baptized in order to get rid of that “original sin” and even Calvin calls baptism a sacrament which is a lie. So if you believe one lie you have to make up more to fix the first one. Baptismal regeneration comes from the logical deduction of being born dead in trespasses and sins. They go hand in hand!

Now in dealing with the adult and the child in these things it is very important to understand the analogous relationship between these things: Matthew 18:3, “And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be **converted**, and **become as little children**, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.” Notice you must become innocent again! John 3:5-7, “Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be **born of water** and **of the Spirit**, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is **born of the flesh is flesh**; and that which is **born of the Spirit is spirit**. Marvel not that I said unto thee, **Ye must be born again**.” Notice again the connection to being born and becoming a like a child. There must be something in children that will get them to heaven already that is lost sometime growing up into adulthood. The truth is you must be born again! John 1:12-13, “But **as many as received him**, to them gave he power **to become the sons of God**, even to them that believe on his name: **Which were born**, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but **of God**.”

So the same thing ends up with born again people and little children: Romans 4:6-8, “Even as David also describeth **the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works**, Saying, **Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.**”

**The End**