

Robert Shank wrote a book refuting the doctrine of "once in grace, always in grace" called Life in The Son. His approach in dealing with such a topic was slightly different than I expected. Namely, Shank looked at all of the passages that would seem to support such a doctrine and showed they did not teach it. After disposing of these passages one can look to other texts that would complement the study by showing the proposition false.

As we have gone through our study of the doctrine of original sin I have tried to use the same approach. By looking at the scriptures often used to support original sin and showing them not to teach it, it becomes very easy now to look at the one Old Testament scripture that shows sin is not passed on from generation to generation. Hopefully by looking at the scriptures as we have done in the past few weeks the power that is contained in Ezek. 18:20 will be magnified. There is not one Old Testament scripture that can contradict it.

Ezekiel 18 :20 reads as follows, "The person who sins will die" The son will not bear the punishment for the father's iniquity, nor will the father bear the punishment for the son's iniquity; the righteousness of the righteous will be upon himself, and wickedness of the wicked will be upon himself." Here we see the correct relationship of sin and the sinner. All men and women are responsible to God for their own individual sins. They will not be burdened with the sins of others or family that have gone before them. Neither have they the option of casting their sins on someone else (except Christ) to have them forgiven. "The person who sins will die" is talking of spiritual death. The punishment talked of is damnation in hell, the righteousness spoken of is true spirituality, and the wickedness is ungodly living. The concept is brought out through the entire 18th chapter, read it and see!

To believe that the Old Testament teaches original sin is to ignore and disbelieve the entire 18th chapter of Ezekiel. The fact is, the Bible does not teach the doctrine of original sin. This is a man-made religious doctrine not found in the Bible. To believe and practice such is sin (Deut. 4:2, 1Pet. 4:11). In conclusion we have seen that the Old Testament does not teach that sin can be passed on from generation to generation. Therefore to use the Old Testament scriptures as proof texts of the doctrine is in error.

---Greg