

HOW WILL I DIE?

I. One can die safe.

- A. You might be wondering what I mean by safe.
- B. To die safe means one has no sins.
 - 1. Some would point Romans 3:23.
 - 2. They would say that this applies to all men.
- C. I agree with them up to a point.
 - 1. Children are safe.
 - 2. They are born sinlessly perfect and if they were to die in that state they would be safe.
- D. Our denominational, Calvinistic friends would stand up at this point and vehemently disagree with me.
 - 1. They say that children are born in sin, that they inherit the sin of Adam.
 - 2. All are born with sin under this doctrine, thus all incapable of doing any real good.
- E. Notice this statement from the Westminster Confession of Faith: "Our first parents ... sinned ... By this sin they fell from their original righteousness, and communion with God, and so became dead in sin, and wholly defiled in all the faculties and parts of soul and body. They being the root of all mankind, the guilt of this sin was imputed, and the same death in sin and corrupted nature conveyed to all their posterity...From this original corruption, whereby we are utterly indisposed, disabled, and made opposite to all good, and wholly inclined to all evil, do proceed all actual transgressions" - Chap. VI, sec. 1-4.
- F. Catholicism teaches this as well in their doctrine of original sin, which is defined as: "a consequence of this first sin, the hereditary stain with which we are born on account of our origin or descent from Adam" according to the Catholic Encyclopedia.
- G. Many more such statements could be noticed to show that there are many in the religious world that believe you and I and all others are born with sin.
- H. This simply is not true according to scripture.
 - 1. Ezekiel 18:20.
 - 2. This would make Jesus born with sin, which is contradictory to scripture (2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 7:26; 1 Peter 2:22-24).
 - 3. Jesus said His followers must become as little children (Matthew 18:3) - this would have Jesus telling us to become sinful again.
- I. Children are born perfectly sinless and at some point move into a state of accountability when they understand right from wrong and that they know they have sin in their lives.
 - 1. Movement into this area is not based on an age.
 - 2. Some move into this state at a much later age than others and some much sooner depending on maturity.
- J. Also, those who are born with mental defects that render them incapable

of understanding right from wrong are safe.

- K. One final passage puts this idea to rest if viewed correctly: Mark 16:16.
 - 1. One must be capable of belief in Jesus as the Son of God.
 - 2. Without this capability one cannot, and will not, be held accountable by God: it would make Him unjust if He did.

II. **One can die separated.**

- A. When one is capable of belief and understands the impact of sin on his/her life and realizes there is sin in his/her life, that person then understands he/she is separated from God.
- B. Sin separates (Isaiah 59:1-2).
- C. Romans 3:23 - all there represents all who are accountable.
- D. When sin enters into one's life, it causes imperfection in that life and there becomes a great need to have that imperfection removed.
- E. Being separated from God carries severe consequences if one does not take the necessary steps to restore the severed relationship with God.
 - 1. 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 - ultimately it leads to eternal separation.
 - 2. We lose contact with God while still living (1 Peter 3:12).
- F. God does not want this to remain the case, therefore He sent His only begotten Son.
 - 1. 1 Timothy 2:4.
 - 2. Romans 6:23; 1 John 2:1-2.
- G. Some obey the gospel but go back to a life of sin, thereby separating themselves again from God's love (2 Thessalonians 3:6, 14-15).
- H. Thankfully, as awful as sin is and as holy as God is, God still allows a way for that sin to be removed and the relationship restored.

III. **One can die saved.**

- A. The final way in which a person may die is that of being saved.
- B. One is saved only through the blood of Christ (Revelation 1:5; 7:14).
- C. The gospel message is the only means by which God has revealed His plan for man's salvation, thus it is His only power to save us (Romans 1:16).
 - 1. This gospel tells us how to restore the relationship with God, through obedience to Jesus.
 - 2. Man needs to be justified before God and Jesus allows this to take place (Romans 5:9).
- D. The blood of Jesus is integral in our salvation.
 - 1. One must come into contact with that blood in order to have his sins washed away (Romans 6:3-4).
 - 2. The reason a person would do this is that they have come to believe in Jesus as their only means of salvation (John 8:24).
 - 3. This leads them to repent of their sins and confess the name of Jesus (Luke 13:3, 5; Matthew 10:32-33).
 - 4. They will then be baptized, putting on Christ (Galatians 3:26-27).
- E. Without the blood of Christ, there can be no remission of sins (Hebrews 9:22).
- F. However, when one comes into contact with the blood of Christ, sin is

removed and a relationship with God is restored and there is great rejoicing in heaven.

- G. We then must live a life of faithful obedience to God in order to remain saved.
- H. At times, we will sin, but if we are walking in the light of God's word, we will be quick to repent, thus remaining in contact with the blood of Christ (1 John 1:7).
- I. Living this way, and ultimately, dying this way will allow us to spend eternity in heaven with the Father, Son, Holy Spirit and all the redeemed.