

Question 10. Will God suffer such disobedience and apostasy to go unpunished?

Answer. By no means; but he is terribly displeased with our inborn as well as actual sins, and will punish them in just judgment in time and eternity, as he has declared: "Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them."

3. *The Second Helvetic Confession* (A.D. 1566), Chapter 8

"And we take sin to be that natural corruption of man, derived or spread from our first parents unto us all, through which we, being drowned in evil concupiscence, and clean turned away from God, but prone to all evil, full of all wickedness, distrust, contempt, and hatred of God, can do no good of ourselves -- no, not so much as think any (Matt. 12:34-35).

"And, what is more, even as we do grow in years, so by wicked thoughts, words, and deeds, committed against the law of God, we bring forth corrupt fruits, worthy of an evil tree: in which respect we, through our own desert, being subject to the wrath of God, are in danger of just punishment; so that we had all been cast away from God, had not Christ, the Deliverer, brought us back again.

"We therefore acknowledge that original sin is in all men; we acknowledge that all other sins which spring therefrom are both called and are indeed sins, by what name soever they may be termed, whether mortal or venial, or also that which is called sin against the Holy Spirit, which is never forgiven.

"We also confess that sins are not equal (I John 5:16-17), although they spring from the same fountain of corruption and unbelief, but that some are more grievous than others (Mark 3:28-29); even as the Lord has said, 'It shall be easier for Sodom than for the city that despises the word of the Gospel.' (Matt. 10:15)."

4. *The Canons of the Synod of Dort* (A.D. 1619), Third and Fourth Heads of Doctrine, Articles 1-5

"Article 1. Man was originally formed after the image of God. His understanding was adorned with a true and saving knowledge of his Creator, and of spiritual things; his heart and will were upright, all his affections pure, and the whole Man was holy; but revolting from God by the instigation of the devil, and abusing the freedom of his own will, he forfeited these excellent gifts, and on the contrary entailed on himself blindness of mind, horrible darkness, vanity, and perverseness of judgment; became wicked, rebellious, and obdurate in heart and will, and impure in all his affections.

"Article 2. man after the fall begat children in his own likeness. A corrupt stock produced a corrupt offspring. Hence all the posterity of Adam, Christ only excepted, have derived corruption from their original parent, not by imitation, as the Pelagians of old asserted, but by the propagation of a vicious nature in consequence of the just judgment of God.