

Both moral evil and moral good are attributed to our nature (what we are) and our actions (what we do); both to states and dispositions and to conscious, deliberate actions.

2. The distinction between sin as guilt and sin as corruption

Guilt refers to man's legal liability to the Law of God: as a sinner he is condemned; i.e., declared to be a transgressor and liable to punishment.

Corruption refers to man's moral character contrasted with the moral character of God: as a sinner he is disposed or bent or inclined toward sin, whereas God is holy and good through and through and wholly inclined toward moral uprightness. Corruption is also referred to as pollution or depravity.

3. The distinction between sin as original and sin as actual

Original sin is that sin in which every human being shares because of his or her relationship to Adam.

Actual sin (or individual and personal sin) is that sin which every human being (except Christ) commits in himself or herself; that sin whose guilt and corruption are uniquely his or her own and not shared.

Question 18 of the Westminster Shorter Catechism asks: "Wherein consists the sinfulness of that estate whereinto man fell?"

Answer: "The sinfulness of that estate whereinto man fell, consists in the guilt of Adam's first sin, the want of original righteousness, and the corruption of his whole nature, which is commonly called original sin; together with all actual transgressions which proceed from it.

This answer may be analyzed as follows:

(1) The components of original sin are:

(a) negatively -- lack of original righteousness

(b) positively --

guilt

corruption

(2) original sin refers both to Adam and to all who have descended from him by ordinary generation

(3) Original sin is the root of all actual (individual and personal) transgressions

These relationships may perhaps be seen more clearly by means of a chart.