



## **Soteriology - The Doctrine of Salvation - Part 4**



### **6 The Necessity of Salvation—The Barrier**

In Ephesians 2:14-16 Paul speaks of the barrier of separation which exists between God and man.

As long as this barrier exists, there is no possibility of fellowship between God and man.

The barrier, or literally the dividing wall mentioned in Ephesians 2:14, referred historically to the dividing wall in the temple in Jerusalem.

## **Ephesians 2:14-16    New International Version**

**14** For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility,

**15** by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace,

**16** and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.



This wall separated the court of the Gentiles from the rest of the temple and excluded the Gentiles from the inner sanctuaries.

But this wall was a picture of the spiritual barrier that stands between God and man which precludes man's access into God's presence.

The Jews could go beyond the dividing wall, but this was only because they had access through their God-given sacrificial system which pointed to the person and work of Christ, the Messiah, the One who would make peace and remove the barrier.

The study of the Bible reveals there are several spiritual factors which go together to make up this barrier of separation between God and man.

Though sin is the root problem, it is not the only issue.

A combination of factors make up this wall of separation.

So just what constitutes the barrier between God and man?

### **Barrier 1: The Holiness of God**

We often think of God as a God of love—which He is—but more is said in the Bible of God’s holiness than of God’s love.

In fact, **Isaiah 57:15** even declares that His “name is holy.”

#### **Isaiah 57:15 New International Version**

**15**

For this is what the high and exalted One says—  
he who lives forever, whose name is holy:  
“I live in a high and holy place,  
but also with the one who is contrite and lowly in spirit,  
to revive the spirit of the lowly  
and to revive the heart of the contrite.

In **Isaiah 6:3**, the holy cherubim continuously proclaimed the holiness of God.

#### **Isaiah 6:3 New International Version**

**3** And they were calling to one another:

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty;  
the whole earth is full of his glory.”

After seeing this in the vision of God’s absolute holiness given to the Prophet, Isaiah cried out, “Woe is me, for I am ruined!



Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.”

## **Habakkuk**

spoke of the holiness of God and said, “Thine eyes are too pure to approve evil, and thou canst not look on wickedness with favor ...” (**Hab. 1:13**).

### **Habakkuk 1:13 New International Version**

13

Your eyes are too pure to look on evil;  
you cannot tolerate wrongdoing.

Why then do you tolerate the treacherous?

Why are you silent while the wicked  
swallow up those more righteous than themselves?



**John wrote, “God is light and in Him is no darkness at all” (1 John 1:5).**

### **1 John 1:5 New International Version**

#### **Light and Darkness, Sin and Forgiveness**

5 This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

**Abraham confessed God as the Judge of all the earth who had to act in accordance with His holy justice (Gen. 18:25).**

### **Genesis 18:25 New International Version**

25 Far be it from you to do such a thing—to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from you! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?”

**In 2 Timothy 4:8, Paul called God the righteous Judge.**

### **2 Timothy 4:8 New International Version**

8 Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

**In Deuteronomy 32:4**, Moses spoke of God's holy character:

**Deuteronomy 32:4 New International Version**

**4**

He is the Rock, his works are perfect,  
and all his ways are just.  
A faithful God who does no wrong,  
upright and just is he.

A God of faithfulness and without injustice, Righteous and upright is He.

These and many other passages point to the perfect holiness of God and stress the fact that God cannot and will not act contrary to His holy character.

If He is without injustice and completely righteous in all that He is and does, how can He have fellowship with sinful man or anything less than His perfect holiness?

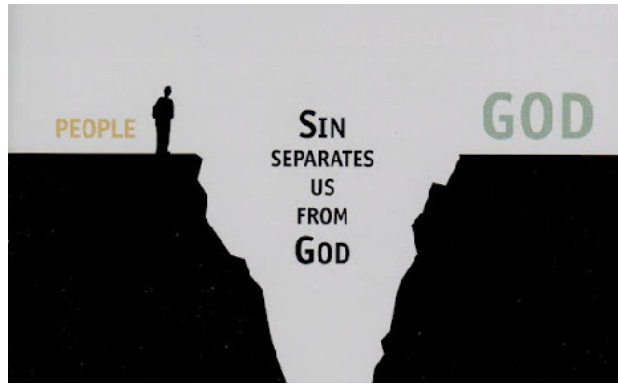
The holiness of God has two branches: perfect righteousness and perfect justice.

God is absolute righteousness and perfection.

It is impossible for God to do anything wrong or to have fellowship with anything less than His perfect righteousness.

Since God is also perfect justice, which acts in accord with His perfect righteousness, He cannot be partial or unfair to any creature and He must deal with the creature in perfect justice.

This means all that is unrighteous or sinful must be judged and separated from Him:



## **Psalm 119:137-138 New International Version**

### **Ⲱ Tsadhe**

137

You are righteous, Lord,  
and your laws are right.

138

The statutes you have laid down are righteous;  
they are fully trustworthy.

## **Psalm 145:17 New International Version**

17

The Lord is righteous in all his ways  
and faithful in all he does.

## **Habakkuk 1:13 New International Version**

13

Your eyes are too pure to look on evil;  
you cannot tolerate wrongdoing.  
Why then do you tolerate the treacherous?  
Why are you silent while the wicked  
swallow up those more righteous than themselves?

## **Romans 1:18    New International Version**

### **God's Wrath Against Sinful Humanity**

18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness,

## **Romans 2:5-6,11    New International Version**

5 But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed.

6 God "will repay each person according to what they have done."<sup>[a]</sup>

11 For God does not show favoritism.

## **Romans 14:11-12    New International Version**

11 It is written:

"'As surely as I live,' says the Lord,  
'every knee will bow before me;  
every tongue will acknowledge God.'"<sup>[a]</sup>

12 So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

## **1 Peter 4:5    New International Version**

5 But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.



## **Barrier 2: The Sin of Man**



Galatians teaches us that man is shut up (locked out, shut out from God) because man is under the eight ball of sin.

### **Romans 3:23 New International Version**

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,  
(His holy character).

### **Isaiah 59:1-2 New International Version**

#### **Sin, Confession and Redemption**

## **59**

Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save,  
nor his ear too dull to hear.

<sup>2</sup>

But your iniquities have separated  
you from your God;

your sins have hidden his face from you,  
so that he will not hear.

**In Isaiah 59:1-2** the prophet said, “Behold, the LORD’s hand is not so short that it cannot save; Neither is His ear so dull that it cannot hear.

But your iniquities have made **a separation** between you and your God, And your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He does not hear.”

Isaiah was reminding Israel that though God has the ability and desire to deliver men, He cannot act contrary to nor bypass His perfect holiness.

Sin creates a barrier between God and man which hinders access to God.

This is true for the unbeliever who can only come to God through Christ who alone is the Way, the Truth, and the Life (**John 14:6; - Acts 4:12**).

**It is also true for the believer in Christ.**

Even though they are saved and have access to God in Christ, fellowship with God as His children is broken by known sin which must first be confessed so that fellowship can be restored and God can answer prayer (**Ps. 66:18**).

### **John 14:6 New International Version**

**6** Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

### **Acts 4:12 New International Version**

**12** Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”

## **Psalm 66:18 New International Version**

**18**

If I had cherished sin in my heart,  
the Lord would not have listened;

The barrier of sin is one of the reasons why God, in His sovereign love, gave His Son to die on the cross for man's sin.

There are three aspects which go to make up the barrier of sin which will be mentioned just briefly in this study.



## **Imputed Sin:**

**Romans 5:12 teaches us the fact of imputed sin.**

## **Romans 5:12 New International Version**

### **Death Through Adam, Life Through Christ**

**12** Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned—



Adam is the representative head of the human race and because of our natural relationship to him, his sin is imputed, reckoned, to the entire human race.

God views the human race as though we all sinned in Adam or with Adam.

But in this we also see God's grace as Paul explains in **Romans 5:12-18**, for just as Adam's sin was imputed to every human being as a descendent of Adam because of Adam's one act of sin, so Christ's righteousness is imputed to all who become children of God by faith in Christ because of His one act of righteousness (**Rom. 5:16-18**).

As such, Adam was a type of Christ (**Rom.5:14**).

## **Romans 5:12-18    New International Version**

### **Death Through Adam, Life Through Christ**

**12** Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned—

**13** To be sure, sin was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not charged against anyone's account where there is no law.

**14** Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who is a pattern of the one to come.

**15** But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many!

**16** Nor can the gift of God be compared with the result of one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification.

**17** For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!

**18** Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people.

## Inherited Sin:



The Bible teaches the fact that, as the posterity of Adam, every child is born with a sinful nature inherited from his parents.

Many passages of Scripture refer to this principle.

According to **Ephesians 2:1-3**, all are dead in sin and are “by nature the children of wrath.”

### **Ephesians 2:1-3 New International Version**

#### **Made Alive in Christ**

**2** As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins,

**2** in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

**3** All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh<sup>[a]</sup> and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.

## **Other important verses are:**

### **Genesis 5:3 New International Version**

3 When Adam had lived 130 years, he had a son in his own likeness, in his own image; and he named him Seth.

### **Psalms 51:5 New International Version**

5  
Surely I was sinful at birth,  
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

### **Psalms 58:3 New International Version**

3  
Even from birth the wicked go astray;  
from the womb they are wayward, spreading lies.

## **Individual or Personal Sin:**

### **Romans 3:18, 23 New International Version**

18  
“There is no fear of God before their eyes.”<sup>[a]</sup>

### **Romans 3:23 New International Version**

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,



**Friends, please remember, that You can't buy your way into Heaven, or out of Hell.**

Rev. Jesus Del Rio, Ed