

Reflections

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A Weekly Publication Of The Pine Street Church Of Christ

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Pine Street
CHURCH OF CHRIST
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ASSEMBLY TIMES

Sunday Bible Study
9:45 AM

Sunday Worship
10:45 AM & 6:30 PM

Wednesday Bible Study
7:30 PM

RADIO PROGRAM

"For The Glory Of God"
8:45-9:00 AM
MAGIC 99.5 FM
Cable Channel 15

WEB SITE
www.pinestreetcoc.com

Reflections is a weekly publication of the Pine Street church of Christ including Bible-based articles for the spiritual edification and education of all readers. Please contact us if you have comments or questions about the content of the paper.

Are Children Born Sinners?

By Jeremy D. Joy

Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them; they shall not be ashamed, but shall speak with their enemies in the gate" (Psalm 127:3-5).

Instead of viewing children as sinners who need to be saved, we should strive to be more like them.

to it as "the miracle of childbirth" although it is by natural means. Nevertheless, children are a blessing from God and we have the responsibility to nurture them, but are they born sinners?

The doctrine of original sin states that babies are born sinners because they inherit the sin of Adam, which has been passed from generation to generation since the Garden of Eden. Some have concluded that parents pass sin to their children in the same way that they pass the genes for blond hair and blue eyes. If you have witnessed "the miracle of

God created men and women with the ability to procreate. The birth process is repeated over and over again according to His plan. We sometimes refer



**I will meditate on Your precepts, and
contemplate Your ways.
— Psalm 119:18**

childbirth" and the pure innocence of a child, it is a hard doctrine to believe, but it is an emotional response to a false doctrine and we need to objectively consider what the Bible says on the subject. A majority of denominationalism believes a form of original sin and some of their practices such as infant baptism are based upon the doctrine. Therefore, we need to be prepared to answer (1 Peter 3:15).

The Bible teaches that the law of God is an expression of His will for mankind via commands, inferences, and examples. Because sin is a transgression of law (1 John 3:4), it is also a transgression against the Lawgiver — God (James 4:12). It is an act contrary to the will of

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God. There are lists of sins that help us understand what sin is (Galatians 5:19-21). We would not know sin without the law. Babies and small children are not capable of committing sin much less understanding what sin is or what the law says. We are sinners because we violate the will of God, not because we are born sinners.

Furthermore, the Bible teaches that we are responsible for our own sins. "The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous will be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself" (Ezekiel 18:20). We are also responsible for turning from our

sins. "But if a wicked man turns from all his sins which he has committed, keeps all My statutes, and does what is lawful and right, he shall surely live; he shall not die" (Ezekiel 18:21). Based upon the Scriptures, the doctrine of original sin is contrary to the word of God.

Instead of viewing children as sinners who need to be saved, we should strive to be more like them. On one occasion, Jesus used a child as an example to teach an important lesson about humility, not inherited sin (Matthew 18:1-4). We must be humble like a child "for of such is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 19:14). Otherwise, we find ourselves on the outside looking in according to the teaching

Pine Street News And Notes

"Let brotherly love continue" — Hebrews 13:1

Members of our church family who are sick and in need of our prayers: **Howard Smith** continues to have health problems.

Others who are sick and in need of our prayers: **Love Postlethwait's** brother-in-law, **Blane Morris**, has lung cancer...**Wanda Rockwell's**, brother-in-law, **Bill Price**, is not well...**Crystal Shockley's** grandmother, **Dorothy Myers**, is improving...**Janet Webber's** mother-in-law, **Florence Webber**, is confined to her home.

The Training Class will be on Sunday evening, August 17. The schedule is posted on the bulletin board.

Preaching reports from **Kent Clark** and **Daniel Ruegg** are posted on the bulletin board.

Please check the bulletin board for Gospel Meetings throughout the Ohio Valley.

We need your help to complete the new worship schedule for the next quarter. Are you willing to lead the singing, lead a prayer, read the Scriptures, or serve the Lord's Supper? Please sign-up as soon as possible. The sign-up sheet is on the stand in the foyer.

Gabe, Adam, and Ethan Koontz will be leaving for college. We will miss them and wish them the best of luck in the fall semester.

Is there someone who needs encouragement? Look for opportunities to encourage one another this week.

The Scripture reading today is: Psalm 119:137-144.

The sermons today are: "What We Should Do...Always" (AM) and "Winning People To Jesus" (PM).