

*Did you know . . .*

## DID GOD CREATE SIN?

When God created the universe, the universe had no sin, for it is written in Genesis (1:31), "God looked at everything he had made, and He found it very good." Sin came into our world because God created man in His image and since God is free, humans were created with free will as well. Free will involves the ability to choose. The first man, Adam, was told not to eat of the tree, but God allowed Adam the dignity of free choice; Adam chose disobedience, and that choice had consequences. God did not tempt, coerce or lure Adam to make the decision he did; Adam chose so through free will.

Adam, as the first created human being, stood at the "head" of the human race and acted not only for himself but for all his progeny. Thus we are now all born with *original sin* (also called ancestral sin) which stems from Adam and Eve's rebellion in Eden. Because of Adam's sin, every human being is created with original sin on his soul and without Sanctifying Grace, since Adam was the father of the human race. Adam's nature became "fallen" through Original Sin, and we his descendants inherit his fallen nature. (*"By the disobedience of one man, many were made sinners."* Romans 5:19)

Further, the gates of Heaven were closed; disease, pain and death came into the world; the mind of man was darkened and his will was weakened. But because of Christ's death on the Cross, God reopened Heaven and made Sanctifying Grace available to man. (*"As in Adam all die, so also in Christ, all shall be made alive."* 1 Corinthians 15:22)

The only person preserved from original sin was the Blessed Virgin Mary, whose soul was created with Sanctifying Grace in it.

It is baptism that takes away original sin and restores Sanctifying Grace, although it cannot restore the other gifts lost by Adam.

God does not create sin nor does He delight in punishing those who use their free will and choose to sin. He desires all choose repentance and experience the blessing and joy of eternal life with Him. (*"...He is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."* 1 Peter 3:9)

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