

Are Babies Just “Little Sinners”?

By Tony Melton

Believe it or not, many religious people think that babies are nothing more than “little sinners.” They very seldom admit this belief, but they believe it just the same. John Calvin, a religious reformer, advocated this doctrine during the 16th century. It was called “original sin.”

This doctrine teaches that every newborn baby inherits the sins of the first man, Adam. However, the Bible says that “the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him” (Ezekiel 18:20), and that each of us will give an account of himself to God (Romans 14:12). In other words, neither babies, nor anyone else will have to give account for the sins of others.

To say that an infant is born with sin is to say that God placed an unclean spirit in the baby’s body. Zechariah 12:1 says that the Lord “forms the spirit of man within him.” God does not create a guilt-ridden, sinful spirit, but rather a pure and holy one. To those who believe that babies are born with sin, we ask, “Where do babies go if they die? To heaven or hell?” The Bible teaches that all sinners “shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone” (Revelation 21:8).

The idea that babies and small children are stained with sin and shame is foreign to God’s word. In fact, Jesus tells us that little children are like those in the kingdom of God (Mark 10:14). He tells Christians that they must become as little children. If children are nothing more than “little sinners,” why should we become like them? Jesus, also, explains that if you want to enter God’s kingdom, you must be born again (John 3:3-5). But if children are born into sin, what is the use of being born again? In the “new birth” God gives man a new start in life—pure and without sin—just like he was when he was first born into this world.