

LECTURE 11:
Is Human Suffering Justifiable? (Part 2): Punished for Adam's Sin?

INTRODUCTION

- I. The nature of the problem:
- II. The historic controversy:

THE TWO MAIN THEORIES

- I. The realist theory:
 - II. The (extreme) federal theory:
 - A. Statement of the theory:
 - B. Arguments
 - 1. Romans 5:12-19)
 - 2. Native depravity is punishment and punishment presupposes guilt:
 - 3. Sin is imputed to infants, who have no sin:
 - 4. Guilt necessary to avoid arbitrary punishment:
 - 5. The threats against Adam executed against his posterity:
 - 6. The argument from the atonement, i.e., imputation of our sins to Christ:
 - 7. The argument from justification, i.e., the imputation of Christ's righteousness to us:
 - 8. The argument from principle of representation elsewhere in scripture:
 - C. Reply to extreme federal theory:
 - 1. Despite federalist claims to the contrary, many among the Reformed have explicitly rejected the doctrine of alien guilt as unbiblical and unjust.
 - 2. Though it is designed to evade it, the doctrine of imputed alien guilt results in the condemnation of innocent men against their wills.
 - 3. Though it is designed to evade it, the imputation of alien guilt makes the moral will of God totally arbitrary.
 - 4. The imputation of alien guilt also makes God the author of evil:
 - 5. Reply to an objection, i.e., that the rejection of extreme federalism undermines the other two imputations, of our guilt to Christ of his righteousness to us:
 - 6. Reply to an objection, i.e., that there are biblical cases of innocent men punished for the sins of others:
 - 7. Reply to an objection, i.e., how then are we to read Romans 5:12-19?
- III. The (moderate) federal theory:
 - A. What moderate federalists grant to extreme federalists:
 - B. What we reject in extreme federalism:
 - C. An internal problem with moderate federalism:
 - II. So are we punished for Adam's sin? If so, is that just?