

Belgic Confession of Faith (1561)

Article XV **Original Sin**

Leader: We believe that through the disobedience of Adam original sin is extended to all mankind;¹ which is a corruption of the whole nature and a hereditary disease, wherewith even infants in their mothers womb are infected,² and which produces in man all sorts of sin, being in him as a root thereof,³ and therefore is so vile and abominable in the sight of God that it is sufficient to condemn all mankind.⁴

People: **Nor is it altogether abolished or wholly eradicated even by regeneration; since sin always issues forth from this woeful source, as water from a fountain; notwithstanding it is not imputed to the children of God unto condemnation, but by His grace and mercy is forgiven them.**⁵

Leader: Not that they should rest securely in sin, but that a sense of this corruption should make believers often to sigh, desiring to be delivered from this body of death.⁶

People: **Wherefore we reject the error of the Pelagians, who assert that sin proceeds only from imitation.**

¹ Gen. 6:5; Eccl. 7:20,29; Rom. 3:10-12,5:12-13

² Psalm 51:5, 58:3; Isa. 48:8;

³ Mark 7:21-23; Rom. 1:21-32,3:10-20; Gal. 5:19-21; Eph. 4:17-19

⁴ Rom. 5:18,6:16; Eph. 2:3-5

⁵ Rom. 5:17-19; Eph. 2:4-9

⁶ Rom. 6:3, 19, 7:18,24; Col. 3:1-5