

## **Children and Sin**

Chip Heim

A very hard thing for parents to accept is that their son or daughter is a sinner. "Come on Chip," you are thinking, "I know my Billy is a sinner. I LIVE WITH HIM!" However, most parents fall into the *Pelagian trap*. Pelagius was a 4th century monk who is now largely unknown and yet his influence touches us today 1,600 years later.

In short, Pelagius could not let himself believe that people were sinners. Now, he knew people did bad things. He could look around himself and see people doing bad things. But it was his opinion that people do bad things—sins—only because they are reacting to something, or they were misguided. Pelagius did not think a person had sin on the inside or that a person actually intended to do something wrong. "Ok Chip, so what's your point? I mean that monk lived 1,600 years ago."

Here's the point. Our love for our children is so great it can keep us from seeing them as the Bible sees them. Sure, Susie may do something wrong but that was because the other students were making fun of her, or her teacher did not listen to her, or her coach doesn't understand her. But surely, it can't be that Susie herself has sin in her and that is part of her!?!

I'm sure your child has come home from a practice, or school or a friend's house with a story. "Mom, the coach said I could not play in our next game...." We hear the story our child tells us and immediately we are launched about the coach. It never occurs to us that our Susie could actually spin the story so that she looks innocent, the victim of others.

Look at Adam and Eve in the garden. After they ate a piece of fruit—the fruit God said not to eat—they were driven to hide, make excuses and blame each other. In fact, they did everything except admit what they did. God stood in front of them and asked Adam point blank, "Adam, did you eat from the tree I told you not to eat from?" Instead of manning up, Adam blamed Eve. We do what Adam did. And so does Susie.