

## SIN AND THE UNCIRCUMCISED HEART

### LDS Light on Original Sin

The LDS view of “original sin” denies both (MP) that we can be morally responsible for another’s acts and (MPC) that we can be justly punished for another’s acts. The Second Article of Faith expressly rejects the traditional doctrine of original sin which adopts either (MP) or (MPC) by stating: “We believe that men will be punished for their own sins, and not for Adam’s transgression.” In addition, the LDS scriptures expressly reject infant baptism and the view that infants suffer from original sin:

Little children are whole for they are not capable of committing sin; wherefore the curse of Adam is taken from them in me, that it hath no power over them . . . it is solemn mockery before God, that ye should baptize little children. Behold I say unto you that this thing shall ye teach—repentance and baptism to those who are accountable and capable of committing sin; yea, teach parents that they must repent and be baptized, and humble themselves as their little children, and they shall all be saved with their little children. . . . Little children are alive in Christ. (Moro. 8:8-11)

The emphasis on becoming as little children is essential to the LDS view of original sin. In particular, “original sin” is a state into which we enter by choice as we grow from childhood to adulthood. It represents