7.2 Threaded Discussion- Sin, Nature, and Nurture

Name of the Writer

Name of the University

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**Are babies born innocent (without sin) and then learn sin from their environment, or are babies born with sin and simply live out their inner nature when they grow up?**

A child, when born, is innocent and free from any and all sins. This is because he does not have the mental development to know the difference between right or wrong. How can a child who cannot even properly think and act, be liable to be judged as a sinful being? Sin is committed when actions, thoughts or words that are forbidden by religion, are done, spoken or entertained. Their lies the argument that when a child who has just been born and does not have the knowledge of what is right or wrong or what is acceptable or what is forbidden can actually be referred as sinful. Some theologians, who suggest that every child born is contaminated and bears the responsibility of the original sin or the inherited sin, regretfully fail to take into account the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, which cleansed mankind of the original sin. This is supported by Wesley who says that inherited guilt or the original sin was canceled because of Christ’s sacrifice but what was more concerning is the guilt stemming from our own actions.

As a child grows older, he or she develops the understanding of what is right and wrong and then his actions could be deemed either good or sinful. This supported by Pelagius, who rejects the idea of the original sin and supports the notion that a child learns sin from his/her environment. He states that humanity is born into neither sin nor virtue, rather we grow into it. This is because we are not fully developed when we are born but have with us the capacity to do either good or evil.

**Responses to Students**

**Robert Houston**

Your view on this subject is a bit interesting and provokes thinking into the behavior of children of various ages. But the fact is that the child who is acting contrary to how they have been raised is not only influenced by the teachings of their closest relationships but from other individuals in society as well.

**Picky Mela**

The way you have described the matter at hand, and how you have supported your arguments is very exceptional. I share your views and would say that committing sin is a matter of nurture rather than nature.