

DNA Accountability vs. The Universal Struggle

What happens when that biological clock finally strikes? This is where our two faiths confront the ultimate reality of the human condition:

- **The Christian View:** We believe human nature carries an inherited brokenness that is guaranteed to manifest in personal sin the moment we grow up.
- **The Islamic View:** Islam describes the arrival of maturity as Accountability (**Taklif**). The countdown timer automatically activates moral responsibility, where the individual must now consciously wrestle against the powerful desires of the ego (**Nafs**).

The Shared Reality

Whether we view the inclination toward wrongdoing as an immediate condition or a delayed developmental certainty, the reality for ordinary humanity is exactly the same: once we cross the threshold of maturity, we all stumble. None of us remains flawless in our actions.

This is why the Prophet Muhammad openly declared to his followers:
"Every son of Adam commits sin, and the best of those who commit sin are those who repent."

If humanity universally falls into disobedience (Al-Ma'siyah) upon reaching adulthood, it highlights a profound truth: navigating temptation is a hardwired feature of our mortal journey. Whether we begin from a state of innate purity or inherited brokenness, we are all bound to face the exact same spiritual gravity.

Let's Build the Bridge

- Christianity views our vulnerability as an inherited condition, protecting the child through the cross and God's covenant until they can answer for themselves.
- Islam views accountability as a divinely timed destination, protecting the child through Fitrah until the biological clock of maturity strikes.

Ultimately, we are all born with our physical destination already written in our code, and we are all united in the exact same biological and spiritual struggle against human weakness.

We are at this table today to talk about that struggle.

How do we navigate the code ?

How do we find true, lasting realignment and forgiveness ?



Misalignment ORIGINAL SIN

The Genetic Clock

BRIDGING THE CHASM
OF HUMAN NATURE



The Common Ground

We often look at the deep theological divide between Christianity and Islam and see an unbridgeable chasm. Christianity speaks of **Original Sin (Al-Khatiah al-Asliyyah)**. Islam rejects this, speaking instead of Innate Purity (**Fitrah**).

But if we look past the vocabulary and examine human biology alongside our shared care for children, we discover a beautiful harmony: while our faiths view a child's spiritual starting point differently, both describe the exact same early window of divine protection.

The DNA Countdown

Every single human being is born with a physical blueprint passed down 100% from their biological parents. This blueprint controls a genetic countdown timer that no human can pause, escape, or opt out of.

- **The Biology:** We are born in complete physical vulnerability, our bodies and minds awaiting their adult development and moral capacity. Beneath the surface, our faiths view this starting point as either **Fitrah** (innate purity) or Original Sin (an inherited broken nature), yet both agree a child cannot comprehend moral choices and bears zero personal blame.
- **The Timer:** Our DNA dictates that at a specific age, the biological clock strikes.
- **The Reality:** The body undergoes puberty (Bulugh, an Arabic word that literally means

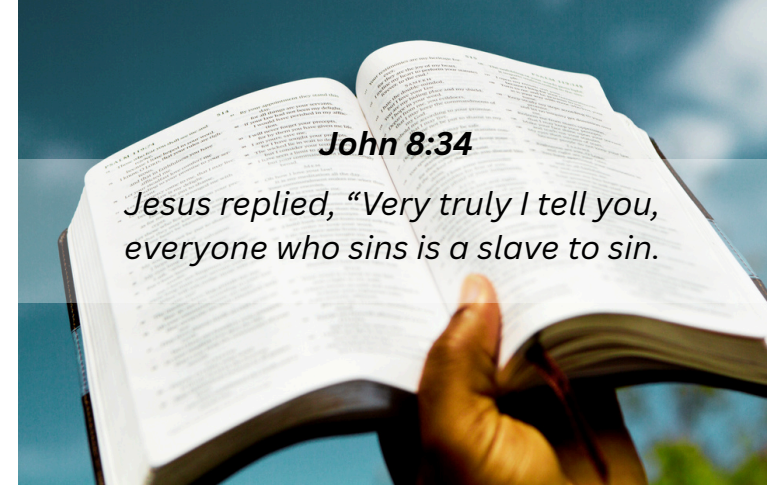
"to reach a destination"). Without our choice, our bodies develop the physical markers of maturity, signalling that the childhood phase has concluded.

The Divine Umbrella: Protecting the Child

Because this biological timer takes years to mature, both Christianity and Islam provide a beautiful "spiritual umbrella" of absolute protection for young children before they reach that destination:

- **The Islamic Protection:** A child is protected by their automatic state of Fitrah. Before the physical markers of maturity appear, their spiritual accountability is dormant. The Prophet Muhammad taught that the spiritual "pen" is lifted from a child, meaning they are completely blameless in the eyes of God.
- **The Christian Protection:** Similarly, while Christianity recognises that children are born into a broken world with a fallen human nature (Original Sin), they are covered by absolute grace. Traditional churches apply infant baptism as a sign of covenant protection, while Evangelical churches recognise an Age of Accountability, meaning God's mercy shields the child until they are mature enough to understand their moral choices.

In both faiths, childhood is honoured as a sacred zone of zero blame.



Scriptures on the Human Condition

Romans 7:18, 21

"For I know that good itself does not dwell in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out... So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me."

Ecclesiastes 7:20

"Indeed, there is no one on earth who is righteous, no one who can do what is right and never sin."

Psalms 51:5

"Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me."

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