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**Christian Beliefs RELT 202**

**Discussion Question for 05/06/19**

**Thorsen Chapter 14**

1. Page 156 includes a small text that describes the current social view on sin and misbehavior. To paraphrase, Thorsen asserts that our current social view disregards sin of itself, and instead blames evil actions on various psychological, environmental, or cultural factors. While God is the ultimate decider of what sin is or isn’t, shouldn’t we be looking deeper into the reasons that humans do what we do? Is it really true that sin is a black and white thing, where actions are either evil or not, or is this simply a belief of the Adventist church that needs to be explored further?
2. This question ties into the above. Is it really our place to judge whether other people’s actions are sins or not? Should we as Christians be worried the actions of others? I feel as though it’s a hot topic in the current climate to be the judge, jury, and executioner of other people’s actions that don’t relate to us (for instance, the actions of a group overseas, or of someone we hear about on the news or in stories). The question to be asked is: is it really our place to carry out this judgement?
3. Page 164: The text talks about something called *the age of accountability.* What is the age of accountability? At what point are you held responsible for your actions? Does this age vary depending on the circumstances and experiences of the person in question? I find the question regarding salvation of the innocent something to really think about, but I also find that thinking about it isn’t really our job as humans, and something better left up to God and his judgement.
4. What is the truth regarding sin and it’s causes? The chapter gave plenty of reasons and theories about various subjects, but no concrete answer. Like my question in question 1, I think it’s fruitless to really think about this in regards to other people, as it’s best left up to God, but I also think it’s important to question the doctrines we have and make sure we’re in the right before we make assumptions and become concrete in our beliefs. So what true conclusions can we draw about sin and its causes?