

Bad to the Bone

A Study in Human Depravity

The Definition of Original Sin

- Some prefer : “inherited sin”
- Berkhof: “the sinful state and condition in which men are born.”
- Hodge: “the corruption of our whole nature.”
- Why the term original?
 - 1) derived from the original root of the human race
 - 2) present in the life of every individual from the time of his birth
 - 3) root of all the actual sins that defile the life of man.”

Views of Original Sin

- Rom. 5:12 - 12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned.

Views of Original Sin

- Pelagian
 - Adam’s sin affected only himself.
 - At birth we are innocent and able to obey God.
 - Rom. 5:12 - we incur death because we follow Adam’s bad example and personally sin.
 - Adherents: Unitarians

Views of Original Sin

- Arminian
 - Adam’s sin corrupted us physically and intellectually, but we have no guilt because of Adam’s sin.
 - At birth we have a sinful nature, but are still able to cooperate with God because of prevenient grace.
 - Rom. 5:12 – we incur death because we consciously choose to follow our corrupted nature and thereby ratify Adam’s sin.
 - Adherents: Methodists, Wesleyans, Pentecostals

Views of Original Sin

- Reformed
 - Adam’s sin brought guilt, corruption, and death to all mankind.
 - At birth our entire nature is polluted by sin, we are under God’s just condemnation, and with are unable to do anything that pleases God or attains salvation.
 - Rom. 5:12 – we incur death because the guilt of Adam’s sin is imputed to us.
 - Adherents: Reformed soteriology; Baptists, Bible, Presbyterians

Transmission of Original Sin

- Augustinian, Realistic, or Seminal view
 - Defined: every human being was seminally present in Adam
 - Defended: Heb. 7:9-10
 - Defenders: Augustine, Calvin, Luther, Strong
- Critiqued:
 - Why only the sin of Adam?
 - Why only Adam's first sin?
 - Why isn't Christ also guilty of Adam's sin, since he too was seminally present (through Mary)?

Transmission of Original Sin

- Federal, Covenant, or Representative
 - Defined: every human being was represented by Adam
 - Defended:
 - 1) An implied covenant in Gen. 2
 - Word for covenant doesn't have to be present (cf. 2 Sam. 7 – covenant with David with no mention of the word, covenant; but in Ps. 89:19-37 it is referred to as a covenant)
 - The elements of a covenant are present.
 - Hosea 6:7
 - 2) The parallels between Adam and Christ in Rom. 5:12ff.
 - Defenders: Hodge, Berkhof, Grudem, Reymond
 - Critiqued: Seems to contradict Deut. 24:16; Ezek. 18

The Elements of Original Sin

- 1) Imputed Guilt
- 2) Inherited Pollution/Corruption
 - a) Total depravity
 - b) Total inability

The Elements of Original Sin

- Imputed Guilt
 - Rom. 5:12ff
 - Imputation is a critical tool of God.
 - 1) He imputed Adam's sin to us.
 - 2) He imputed our sin to Christ.
 - 3) He imputed Christ's righteousness to us.

Application

- A profound sense of gratitude
- Thanksgiving
- Holiness & service
- Deep concern for others

The Elements of Original Sin

- Inherited Pollution/Corruption
 - Total depravity

Total Depravity

- What it does not mean:
- People act as bad as they really are by nature.
- Every sinner will indulge in every form of sin.
- People have no knowledge of God's law or a functioning conscience.
- Sinful man doesn't admire those things that are good and virtuous.
- Every sinner is as depraved as he can possibly become.

Total Depravity

- What it does mean:
- 1) That the corruption inherent in every human being permeates every part of man's nature, including every faculty and power of both soul and body.
- 2) There is nothing spiritually good in the sinner at all.

Total Depravity - Scripture

- Gen. 6:5 - Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.
- Gen. 8:21 - the intent of man's heart is evil from his youth
- 1 Kings 8:46 - there is no man who does not sin
- Ps. 51:5 - Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.

Total Depravity - Scripture

- Ps. 58:3 - The wicked are estranged from the womb; These who speak lies go astray from birth.
- Ps. 130:3 - If You, LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?
- Ps. 143:2 - in Your sight no man living is righteous.
- Eccl. 7:20 - Indeed, there is not a righteous man on earth who *continually* does good and who never sins.
- Eccl. 9:3 - the hearts of the sons of men are full of evil and insanity is in their hearts throughout their lives

Total Depravity - Scripture

- Is. 53:6 - All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him.
- Is. 64:6 - For all of us have become like one who is unclean, And all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment; And all of us wither like a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
- Jer. 17:9 - "The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it?"

Total Depravity - Scripture

- [Rom. 1:29-32](#)
- [Rom. 3:10ff](#)
- [Rom. 3:19-20](#)
 - Responsible before His Law
 - Guilty with no defense
 - Abiding forever under His wrath
 - Hopeless before the divine standard
 - Aware of our true condition

Total Depravity - Scripture

- Gal. 3:22 - But the Scripture has shut up everyone under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.
- Eph. 2:1-3
- Eph. 4:17-19

Implications of Our Depravity

- Serve as a constant reminder that our own hearts are still capable of any sin (1 Cor. 10:1-11).
- Encourage humility (1 Cor. 10:12).
- Produce watchfulness (Mark 14:37-38).
- Increase our desire for and pursuit of personal holiness (Rom. 7:14-18; 8:12-13).
- Produce extreme gratitude for our coming deliverance (Rom. 7:24-25).
- Create a more intense longing for Christ's return and our ultimate salvation (Rom. 8:22-25).

The Battles of Church History

- Augustine vs. Pelagius
- Luther vs. Erasmus
- Followers of Calvin vs. Arminius

The Crux of the Conflict

- To what extent is man's will affected by original sin?
- Does man have a free will?
- What does it mean?

Free Will -- Definitions

- Will:
 - 1) that faculty of the soul that makes choices
 - 2) Jonathan Edwards: "the mind choosing"

Free Will – Definitions

- 1) The Neutral-will theory
 - freedom of indifference
 - "the ability to make choices without any prior prejudice, inclination, or disposition."
 - Argues that we make decisions free of any influences.
 - Both irrational and unbiblical.

Free Will -- Definitions

- 2) Freedom of Contrary Choice
 - Our wills have been damaged by the fall
 - Through grace given to every sinner, the effects of original sin are erased and reversed, which enables every sinner to respond to God.

Free Will -- Definitions

- 3) Freedom of self-determination
 - The ability to choose according to the disposition of your own will, without external control.
 - Man's mind is able to choose what he wants.
 - Edwards: "the will always chooses according to its strongest inclination at the moment."
 - Every choice you make is free—and every choice is determined.

Augustine on the Will

Pre-fall Man	Post-fall Man	Regenerate Man	Glorified Man
Able to sin	Able to sin	Able to sin	
Able to not sin		Able to not sin	Able to not sin
	Unable to not sin		
			Unable to sin

The Clear Statements of Scripture

- Cannot act contrary to his nature
 - Jer. 13:23 - "Can the Ethiopian change his skin Or the leopard his spots? *Then* you also can do good Who are accustomed to doing evil.
 - Matt. 7:18 - "A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit.

The Clear Statements of Scripture

- Cannot enter God's kingdom
 - John 3:3, 5 - Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." 4 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?" 5 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

The Clear Statements of Scripture

- Cannot do anything spiritually good
 - John 8:34 – Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin.
 - John 8:44 - "You are of *your* father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *nature*, for he is a liar and the father of lies.
 - John 15:5 – "Apart from Me you can do nothing."

The Clear Statements of Scripture

- Cannot embrace the truth
 - John 14:17 - the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him.
 - 1 Cor. 2:14
- Cannot obey God
 - Rom. 8:7-8

The Clear Statements of Scripture

- Cannot please God
 - Rom. 8:8 - those who are in the flesh cannot please God.
 - Cf. Heb. 11:6 - 6 And without faith it is impossible to please *Him*.

The Clear Statements of Scripture

- Cannot come to Christ for salvation
 - John 6:44

The Most Common of the Objections

- “Responsibility implies ability.”
- “If God commands people to repent and believe, they must have the ability in and of themselves to do it.”
- Contra. the Law itself (Rom. 3:19-20; Gal. 2:16; 3:24).

The Implications of Moral Inability

- Doctrinal Implications
 - It demolishes any hope of salvation by human merit or action (Tit. 3:3-5).
 - It requires that salvation flow solely from the grace of God (Eph. 2:4-6).
 - It demands that salvation be a sovereign act of God (Ezek. 36:22-27)

The Implications of Moral Inability

- Personal Implications
 - It destroys all human pride and reduces the sinner to a beggar before God (cf. Luke 18:9-14).
 - It empowers our evangelism (2 Cor. 4:1-7).
 - It demands our eternal gratitude and praise.