

**WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT:
TOTAL HEREDITARY DEPRAVITY.**

I. THE NATURE OF MAN IS TOTALLY DEPRAVED.

A. Definition:

1. Total: all, whole, entire.
 - a. In this sense, all of man, mind, body and spirit is depraved.
 - b. There is no part of man that is not affected.
2. Hereditary: A human characteristic transmitted genetically from generation to generation.
3. Depravity: crookedness, corruption, wickedness, tending to sin.
4. Summary definition: A condition which every human has inherited from his biological father which makes his entire being (mind, body and spirit) totally and completely corrupt.
5. Romans 3:10-18 states:

"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips:

Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness:

Their feet are swift to shed blood:

Destruction and misery are in their ways:

And the way of peace have they not known:

There is no fear of God before their eyes."

6. Without God, there is nothing good about man!

B. ALL WERE BORN IN THIS CONDITION.

1. Psalm 51:5.

"Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me."

2. Psalm 58:3.

"The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies."

3. A child does not have to be taught to lie, steal or be selfish because these traits come naturally.

4. Romans 5:12.

"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:"

5. Ephesians 2:1-3.

And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of

the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.@

6. Men are not sinners because they sin, they sin because they are sinners by nature.

Illustration: As a duck is not a duck because he swims, he swims because he is a duck by nature.

II. EVERY ACTION OF A LOST MAN IS SIN.

A. EVEN HIS A GOOD WORKS@ ARE SIN.

1. Even his occupation is sin.

a. Proverbs 21:4.

AAn high look, and a proud heart, and the plowing of the wicked, is sin.@

b. It is sin because the man has refused to acknowledge his guilt and the righteousness of God.

c. He works in rebellion against God.

d. All a man can do in this condition is to incur further estrangement from his God.

2. His benevolent acts are sin.

a. Attending church without being saved is sin!

b. Being baptized without being saved is sin!

c. Helping poor people without being saved is sin!

d. Listen to the words of Isaiah 64:6.

ABut we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and

our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.@

3. There is nothing good in man without God.

a. Romans 7:18 states:

"For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not."

b. Hebrews 11:6 states:

"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

B. MAN CAN DO NOTHING TO EARN HIS SALVATION.

1. Some will say, "Isn't there a speck of good that can be cultivated by good works until man is good enough to be saved? NO!
2. Man must be stripped of any possibility of being good enough to be saved and acceptable to God.

III. THEN HOW CAN A PERSON WHO IS TOTALLY DEPRAVED BE SAVED?

A. MAN CAN BE SAVED ONLY BY THE GRACE OF GOD.

1. The word "grace" means "the unmerited favor of God."
2. Man has absolutely no hope of eternal life apart from the undeserved favor of God.
3. Ephesians 2:8-9 states:

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

Not of works, lest any man should boast."

B. THIS TRUTH THUS TEACHES ABSOLUTE SECURITY OF THE SAVED.

1. God saves men without any merit on their part whatsoever (simply a gift without works).
2. Since this concept is true, and man is totally undeserving of eternal life, it follows that, once received, he could never possibly do anything to be undeserving of this gift.

IV. WHAT ABOUT BABIES WHO DIE?

A. PROMINENT RELIGIOUS VIEWS ON THIS SUBJECT.

1. Most Christian denominations fall into three categories on this subject:
 - a. Calvinism: (Presbyterians, Hard Shell, etc.). If the baby is not one of the elect, then he goes to hell.
 - b. Catholicism: Baby is protected by Asprinkling@ until he is old enough to Aconfirm@ his belief.
 - c. Campbellism: (Church of Christ). They teach that babies are not born with a depraved nature and therefore are not really sinners until they are old enough to realize what sin is. This contradicts scripture.
2. All three of these positions are in clear violation of Scripture and must be rejected as false.

B. BIBLE FACTS CONCERNING BABIES.

1. Babies are born with a depraved nature.
 - a. Psalm 51:5 states:

"Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me."

