

A Study Of Total Depravity

I. The Doctrine Of Total Depravity

“The sin which we inherit from our first parents is called original sin. This sin is called original because it comes down to us from our first parents, and we are brought into the world with its guilt on our soul.” *(Advanced Catechism, Rev. Thomas J. O’Brien, p.25, The Catholic Church)*

“They being the root of all mankind, the guilt of this sin was imputed and the same death in sin and corrupted nature conveyed to all their posterity descending from them by ordinary generation. From this original corruption, whereby they are utterly indisposed, disabled, and made opposite to all good, and wholly inclined to all evil, do proceed all actual transgression. “
(The Westminster Confession of Faith, The Church Of England)

“all men begotten after the common course of nature were born with sin...; man’s powers, without the Holy Spirit, are full of wicked affections, and are too weak to perform any good deed before God.
(The Augsburg Confession 1530, The Lutheran Church)

I. Total Depravity And The Guilt Of Inherited Sin

Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned —

James 5:19-20 Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

Isaiah 59:2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.

1 Timothy 5:6 But she who lives in pleasure is dead while she lives. NKJV

Ezekiel 18:20 The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.

II. Total Depravity And Free Will

“Man, by his fall into a state of sin, has wholly lost all ability to will any spiritual good accompanying salvation.... The man who is born into the world cannot will or do any good.”
(The Philadelphia Confession of Faith)

Joshua 24:15 And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

Proverbs 1:29 Because they hated knowledge And did not choose the fear of the LORD.

Revelation 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

III. Total Depravity And The Doctrine Of Illumination

"Nevertheless we acknowledge the inward illumination of the Spirit of God to be necessary for the saving understanding of such things as are revealed in the word"

(The Westminster Confession Of Faith)

Ephesians 3:2-4 how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already,4 by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ),

IV. Total Depravity And Infant Baptism

"When in the fourth and fifth centuries the doctrine of original sin and consequently of the necessity of baptism for all became better known, the practice of infant baptism progressed rapidly."

(*Legislation on the New Code of Canon Law*, p. 72)

"There is no express mention of the baptizing of infants in the New Testament" (*Question Box*, p.243)

1 Corinthians 13:11 When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

1 Corinthians 14:20 Brethren, do not be children in understanding; however, in malice be babes, but in understanding be mature.

Matthew 18:3 and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 19:14 But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

Acts 8:36-37 Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?" 37 Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."