



Total depravity, Radical corruption

Man is dead in sin, completely and radically impacted by the Fall, the enemy of God, incapable of saving himself. This does not mean that man is as evil as he could be. Nor does it mean that the image of God is destroyed, or that the will is done away with. Instead, it refers to the *all pervasiveness of the effects of sin*, and the fact that man is, outside of Christ, the enemy of God.[\[1\]](#)

Because of the Fall, man is unable of himself to savingly believe the gospel. The sinner is dead, blind and deaf to the things of God; his heart is deceitful and desperately corrupt. His will is not free; it is in bondage to his evil nature. Therefore, he will not -indeed, he cannot—choose good over evil in the spiritual realm. Consequently, takes much more than the Spirit's assistance to bring a sinner to Christ. Spirit makes the sinner alive and gives him a new nature. Faith is not salvation, but itself a part of God's gift of salvation. It is God's gift to the sinner, not the sinner's gift to God.[\[2\]](#)

For a case [see here](#).

Man is sinful, evil, unrighteous

Gn 6:5 *The LORD saw that the **wickedness of man** was great in the earth, and that **every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.***

Gn 8:21 *And when the LORD smelled the pleasing aroma, the LORD said in his heart, "I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the **intention of man's heart is evil from his youth.**"*

Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done.

Job 14:1-4 “Man who is born of a woman is few of days and full of trouble. 2 He comes out like a flower and withers; he flees like a shadow and continues not. 3 And do you open your eyes on such a one and bring me into judgment with you? 4 Who can bring a **clean thing out of an unclean?** There is not one.

Job 15:14-16 What is man, that he can be pure? Or he who is born of a woman, that he can be righteous? 15 Behold, God puts no trust in his holy ones, and the **heavens are not pure in his sight**; 16 how much less one who is **abominable and corrupt, a man** who drinks injustice like water!

Ps 51:5 Behold, I was **brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.**

Ps 58:3 The **wicked are estranged from the womb**; they go astray from birth, speaking lies.

Ps 130:3 If you, O LORD, should **mark iniquities**, O Lord, **who could stand?**

Ps 143:2 Enter not into judgment with your servant, for **no one living is righteous** before you.

Prov 20:9 Who can say, “I have made my heart pure; **I am clean from my sin**”?

Ecc 9:3 This is an evil in all that is done under the sun, that the same event happens to all. Also, the hearts of the children of **man are full of evil**, and **madness is in their hearts** while they live, and after that they go to the dead.

Isa 64:6 We have all become like **one who is unclean**, and all our **righteous deeds are like a polluted garment**. We all fade like a leaf, and our **iniquities**, like the wind, **take us away**.

Jer 13:23 Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard his spots? Then also you can **do good who are accustomed to do evil**.

Jer 17:9 The **heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick**; who can understand it?

Mt 7:17-18 So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the **diseased tree bears bad fruit**. 18 A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can **a diseased tree bear good fruit**.

Mt 12:33 “Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the **tree bad and its fruit bad**, for the tree is known by its fruit.

Mk 7:21-23 For from within, out of the **heart of man**, come **evil thoughts**, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, 22 coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. 23 All these **evil things come from within**, and they defile a person.”

Jn 3:19-20 And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and **people loved the darkness** rather than the light because **their works were evil**. 20 For everyone who **does wicked things hates the light** and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed.

Rom 3:9-18 What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both **Jews and Greeks, are under sin**, 10 as it is written: “**None is righteous**, no, not one; 11 **no one understands; no one seeks for God**. 12 All have turned aside; together they have **become worthless; no one does good**, not even one.[\[1\]](#)” 13 “Their throat is an open grave; they use their **tongues to deceive**.” “The venom of asps is under their lips.[\[2\]](#)” 14 “Their mouth is full of

curses and bitterness.^[3] 15 “Their feet are swift to **shed blood**; 16 in their paths are **ruin and misery**, 17 and the way of **peace they have not known.**”^[4] 18 “There is **no fear of God** before their eyes.^[5]”

Rom 5:12-19 Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so **death spread to all men because all sinned**—13 for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. 14 Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come. 15 But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if **many died through one man’s trespass**, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the **grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many**. 16 And the free gift is not like the result of that one man’s sin. For the judgment following **one trespass brought condemnation**, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. 17 For if, because of one man’s trespass, **death reigned through that one man**, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. 18 Therefore, as **one trespass led to condemnation for all men**, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. 19 For as by the **one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners**, so by the one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous.

Rom 14:23 But whoever has doubts is condemned if he eats, because the eating is not from faith. For **whatever does not proceed from faith is sin**.

Eph 2:1-3 And you were **dead in the trespasses and sins** 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, **following the prince of the power of the air**, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— 3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were **by nature children of wrath**, like the rest of mankind.

Eph 4:17-19 Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. 18 They are **darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God** because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their **hardness of heart**. 19 They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, **greedy to practice every kind of impurity**.

Eph 5:1-8 Therefore be **imitators of God**, as beloved children. 2 And walk in love, as **Christ loved us and gave himself up for us**, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. 3 But **sexual immorality** and all **impurity** or **covetousness** must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. 4 Let there be no **filthiness** nor **foolish talk** nor **crude joking**, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. 5 For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has **no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ** and God. 6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the **wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience**. 7 Therefore do not become partners with them; 8 for at one time **you were darkness**, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light

Col 2:13-15 And you, who were **dead in your trespasses** and the uncircumcision of your flesh, **God made alive** together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, 14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. 15 He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

Jas 1:13-14 Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for **God cannot be tempted with evil**, and he himself **tempts no one**. 14 But each person is **tempted when he is**

lured and enticed by his own desire.

1Jn 1:8-10 *If we say we have **no sin**, we **deceive ourselves**, and the **truth is not in us**. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say **we have not sinned**, we **make him a liar**, and his word is not in us.*

Man is a slave to sin & the Devil

Jn 8:34-36 *Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who **practices sin is a slave to sin**. 35 The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. 36 So if the **Son sets you free, you will be free** indeed.*

Rom 6:6 *We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the **body of sin** might be brought to nothing, so that we would **no longer be enslaved to sin**.*

Rom 6:20 *For when you were **slaves of sin**, you were free in regard to righteousness.*

Rom 6:15-20 *What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! 16 Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are **slaves of the one whom you obey**, either of **sin, which leads to death**, or of **obedience, which leads to righteousness**? 17 But thanks be to God, that you who were once **slaves of sin** have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, 18 and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. 19 I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your **members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness**, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification. 20 For when you were **slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness**.*

2Tim 2:24-26 *And the Lord’s servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, 25 correcting his opponents with gentleness. **God may perhaps grant them repentance** leading to a knowledge of the truth, 26 and they may come to their senses and escape from the **snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will**.*

Tit 3:3 *For we ourselves were once **foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures**, passing our days in **malice and envy, hated** by others and **hating** one another.*

Man is not able to come to God or believe in Him on his own

Jn 3:5-7 *Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is **born of the flesh is flesh**, and that which is **born of the Spirit is spirit**. 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be **born again**.’*

Jn 6:43-47 *Jesus answered them, “Do not grumble among yourselves. 44 **No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him**. And I will raise him up on the last day. 45 It is written in the Prophets, ‘And they will all be taught by God.’ **Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me**— 46 not that anyone has seen the Father except he who is from God; he has seen the Father. 47 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life.*

Jn 6:60-71 *When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?” 61 But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, “Do you take offense at this? 62 Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was*

before? 63 It is the **Spirit who gives life**; the **flesh is no help at all**. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. 64 But there are some of you who do not believe.” (For **Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe**, and who it was who would betray him.) 65 And he said, “This is why I told you that **no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father**.” 66 After this **many of his disciples turned back** and no longer walked with him. 67 So Jesus said to the Twelve, “Do you want to go away as well?” 68 Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? **You have the words of eternal life**, 69 and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.” 70 Jesus answered them, “**Did I not choose you, the Twelve? And yet one of you is a devil**.” 71 He spoke of Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the Twelve, was going to betray him.

Jn 8:39-47 They answered him, “Abraham is our father.” Jesus said to them, “If you were Abraham’s children, you would be doing the works Abraham did, 40 but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. 41 **You are doing the works your father did**.” They said to him, “We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God.” 42 Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. 43 Why do you not understand what I say? It is because **you cannot bear to hear my word**. 44 You are **of your father the devil**, and **your will is to do your father’s desires**. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. 45 But **because I tell the truth, you do not believe me**. 46 Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? 47 **Whoever is of God hears the words of God**. The reason why you do not hear them is that **you are not of God**.”

Jn 10:22-29 At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter, 23 and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. 24 So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? **If you are the Christ, tell us plainly**.” 25 Jesus answered them, “**I told you, and you do not believe**. The works that I do in my Father’s name bear witness about me, 26 but **you do not believe because you are not among my sheep**. 27 **My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me**. 28 **I give them eternal life, and they will never perish**, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and **no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand**.”

Jn 12:37-41 Though he had done so many signs before them, **they still did not believe in him**, 38 so that the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: “Lord, who has believed what he heard from us, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?[\[6\]](#)” 39 Therefore **they could not believe**. For again Isaiah said, 40 “He has **blinded their eyes and hardened their heart, lest they see** with their eyes, and understand with their heart, and turn, and I would heal them.” 41 Isaiah said these things because he saw his glory and spoke of him.

Jn 14:15-17 “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you **another Helper, to be with you forever**, 17 even the **Spirit of truth**, whom the **world cannot receive**, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

Rom 3:9-12 What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both **Jews and Greeks, are under sin**, 10 as it is written: “**None is righteous, no, not one; 11 no one understands; no one seeks for God**. 12 All have turned aside; together they have **become worthless; no one does good**, not even one.[\[7\]](#)”

Rom 8:5-8 *For those who live according to the **flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh**, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. 6 For to set the mind on the **flesh is death**, but to set the mind on the **Spirit is life** and peace. 7 For the mind that is set on the **flesh is hostile to God**, for it **does not submit to God's law**; indeed, **it cannot**. 8 Those who are in the **flesh cannot please God**.*

1Cor 2:14 *The **natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit** of God, for they are **folly to him**, and he is **not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned**.*

This content is taken from [this document](#)

[1] C.f. Ps 14:1-3; Ps 53:1-3

[2] C.f. Ps 5:9; Ps 140:3; Jer 5:16

[3] C.f. Ps 10:7

[4] C.f. Prov 1:16; Isa 59:7-8; Rom 3:15-17

[5] C.f. Ps 36:1

[6] C.f. Isa 6:10; Mt 13:14-15; Mk 6:52

[7] C.f. Ps 14:1-3; Ps 53:1-3

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