

Our Doctrine
(TULIP)

Part 1: Total Depravity



1

Total Depravity

Total Depravity is the doctrine that unregenerate man's nature is totally corrupted with sin.



2

Two types of sin



1 John 3:4 Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. (Sin of commission)

James 4:17 So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin. (Sin of omission)

WSC #14 – Sin is any lack of conformity unto, or transgression of, the law of God.

3

Why do we sin?



Original Sin: The doctrine that all mankind is inherently sinful from birth as a result of Adam's first sin.

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

**We sin because we are sinners.
We are not sinners because we sin.**

4

Why do we sin?



Original Sin: The doctrine that all mankind is inherently sinful from birth as a result of Adam's first sin.

Romans 5:18–19 Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. 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.

5

Total Depravity is not...



Utter depravity: The doctrine that unregenerate man is as sinful as he could possibly be.

2 Thessalonians 2:7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way.

6

Total Depravity is not...



Complete depravity: The doctrine that unregenerate man is incapable of any good action.

Luke 6:32–33 “If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same.”

7

Total Depravity is...



Total Depravity is the doctrine that unregenerate man’s nature is totally corrupted with sin.

Positive: Total depravity teaches that unregenerate man is constantly, continually, and incessantly sinning.

Negative: Total depravity teaches that unregenerate man is unable to do, understand, or desire righteousness (Total Inability).

8

Positive – Constant Sin



Genesis 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.

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

9

Positive – Constant Sin



An objection: Surely unbelievers are not constantly sinning!

Micah 6:8 He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Matthew 22:35–37 “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”

10

Positive – Constant Sin



An objection: Surely unbelievers are not constantly sinning!

Any action which does not give glory to God in both result and motive is sinful.

11

Positive – Constant Sin



Romans 3:9b–18 For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, as it is written: None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one. Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive. The venom of asps is under their lips. Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness. Their feet are swift to shed blood; in their paths are ruin and misery, and the way of peace they have not known. There is no fear of God before their eyes.

12

Total Depravity is...



Total Depravity is the doctrine that man's nature is totally corrupted with sin.

Positive: Total depravity teaches that unregenerate man is constantly, continually, incessantly sinning.

Negative: Total depravity teaches that unregenerate man is unable to do, understand, or desire righteousness.

13

Negative – Total Inability



1. Unregenerate man is unable to do righteous acts.
2. Unregenerate man is unable to understand righteousness.
3. Unregenerate man is unable to desire righteousness.

14

Negative – Total Inability



Unregenerate man is unable to do righteous acts.

1 Corinthians 12:3 Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says “Jesus is accursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except in the Holy Spirit.

John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

15

Negative – Total Inability



Unregenerate man is unable to do righteous acts.

Unregenerate man is unable to please God regardless of outward acts.

16

Negative – Total Inability



Unregenerate man is unable to understand righteousness.

1 Corinthians 1:18 For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

John 8:43 Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word.

17

Negative – Total Inability



Unregenerate man is unable to understand righteousness.

Romans 8:7–8 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. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

18

Negative – Total Inability



Unregenerate man is unable to desire righteousness.

Ephesians 2:1–2a And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked,

John 3:3 Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

19

Negative – Total Inability



Unregenerate man is unable to desire righteousness.

Ezekiel 11:19 And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

20

Summary of Total Depravity



Positive: Total Depravity asserts that unregenerate man is constantly sinning.

Negative: Total Depravity asserts that unregenerate man is unable to do, understand, or desire righteousness.

Ephesians 2:8–9 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

21

Summary of Total Depravity



- Total Depravity **does not** assert that unregenerate man sins in every way as much as possible.
- Total Depravity **does not** assert that unregenerate man is incapable of kindness, charity, self-sacrifice or any other good or God-honoring work.

1 Corinthians 13:3 If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

22

Christ's victory over depravity



Hebrews 4:14–16 Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.