

ARE WE BORN SINFUL?

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How many of us have looked into the face of a newborn baby and been overwhelmed with loving emotions of every kind? It would be safe to say that most of us that have been in this situation have never looked at a newborn baby and thought “this child is full of sin.” There is nothing in the world more pure than a baby, especially if that child is one of our own. We quickly dismiss any thought that the infant is sinful as nonsense and push it aside. However, there is a doctrine that supports this very idea and it is being taught to people the world over. It is known by various names such as “original sin,” but it is widely referred to as the doctrine of Total Hereditary Depravity.

Let us better understand this idea by individually defining the terms which describe it. All definitions are taken from the Merriam-Webster Dictionary. The title Total Hereditary Depravity designates man to be **depraved** which means marked by corruption or evil, or perverted. **Totally** means to a total or complete degree, or wholly and entirely. **Hereditary** means genetically transmitted or transmittable from parent to offspring. Therefore, according to this doctrine, all of mankind is evil, having nothing within us honorable or good. Furthermore, it states that we inherited this condition from our parents!

Notice some of the creeds produced by men that claim this very thing:

The Westminster Confession of Faith declares “...whereby we are utterly indisposed, disabled, and made opposite to all good, and wholly inclined to all evil...” (Chapter VI).

The Philadelphia Confession of Faith states “all becoming dead in sin, and wholly defiled in all faculties, and parts of soul, and body...” “From this original corruption whereby all are utterly disposed, disabled, and made opposite to all good, and wholly inclined to all evil, do proceed all actual transgressions” (pg. 24).

While men make up their own doctrines and pervert many scriptures in the Bible, the fact remains that we are not born with sin. Instead, when we come to the age of accountability, we choose to partake of the sins of this world. If we inherited sin, we ultimately inherited it from God because He is the giver of life and creation. “Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it” (Ecc. 12:7). “Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God...” (Acts 17:29). “The burden of the word of the LORD for Israel, saith the LORD, which stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth, **and formeth the spirit of man within him**” (Zech. 12:1; emphasis mine).

Ultimately, the doctrine will stand or fall on the point of whether or not we are held accountable for the sins of our forefathers, thus indicating that we inherited those sins. The answer lies within the words of God, “The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him” (Ezek. 18:20).

Babies are not born in a sinful state! They are born pure and innocent and if by chance their lives are shortened upon this earth before they reach the age of accountability, they will be welcomed into the bosom of Abraham along with the faithful (Lk. 17:22). If people were born sinners how could the Lord of Lords say, “**Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven**” (Mt. 18:3; emphasis added).