

## Total Hereditary Depravity

### Introduction:

- A. For many years gospel preachers have waged a vigorous fight against those who teach inherent total depravity.
- B. Yet this very attitude has permeated the minds of many Christians. - “On the one hand, **because God is God**, sin must be punished. On the other hand, **because man is man**, he has always sinned” (Edward Fudge, **The Grace of God**. 8).
- C. Are we by inherent nature sinners? - Ezekiel 18:20
- I. What is “inherent total depravity”?
  - A. *When Calvinists speak of man as totally depraved, they mean that man’s nature is corrupt, perverse, and sinful throughout.... The natural man is enslaved to sin; he is a child of Satan, rebellious toward God, blind to truth, corrupt and unable to save himself or to prepare himself for salvation.... Consequently, man’s will is no longer free (i.e., from the dominion of sin) as Adam’s will was free before the fall (The Five Points of Calvinism. 25)*
  - B. When brethren contend man cannot keep God’s law, they are also denying free will.
- II. The doctrine of total hereditary depravity violates scriptural teaching concerning:
  - A. the justice of God. - Ezekiel 18:2-3,20
    - 1. A child may bear the consequences of his parents’ actions but not the guilt.
    - 2. If we inherit Adam’s guilt, why not Noah’s righteousness? - Genesis 6:8-9; cf. 1:28; 9:1
  - B. the definition of sin. - 1 John 3:4
  - C. the nature of children. - Matthew 18:1-4; 19:13-15; Mark 10:14-16; Psalm 106:37-38; 1 Corinthians 14:20
  - D. the source of sin. - Ecclesiastes 12:7; Hebrews 12:9; James 1:13-14,17
  - E. the nature of Christ. - Hebrews 2:14-17; 4:15 (Doctrine of Immaculate Conception, 1854)
  - F. the possibility of degeneration. - 2 Timothy 3:13
  - G. reconciliation. - 2 Corinthians 5:18-20

### Conclusion:

- A. We are all born into this world safe and innocent from sin. - Matthew 18:3
- B. But we have sinned and were lost. - Romans 3:23; 6:23
- C. To be saved, we must believe in and obey the Savior. - Romans 6:23; Acts 16:31; Hebrews 5:8-9