

*“Therefore:” The Logical Lifestyle of a Hopeful Minority*  
***We Believe in Our Total Inability***

Ephesians 2:1–3  
 (Page 976 in Chair Bible)  
 The Lord’s Day Morning  
 September 25, 2016

While Ephesians 1 focuses on what we believe about God, Ephesians 2 turns our attention to what we believe about ourselves. Our natural bent to self-centeredness leads us think we can objectively evaluate ourselves, but the human heart is deceitful and sick (Jer. 17:9), not basically good. Therefore, we cannot trust our own opinions, but must rely on the objective evaluation of God’s Word. Be warned: When we look into the mirror of Scripture, we discover some unflattering truths.

Almost 1600 years ago, the theologian, Augustine of Hippo, summarized the Scripture’s teaching on human nature like this:

| <b>Pre-Fall Man</b> | <b>Post-Fall Man</b> | <b>Reborn Man</b> | <b>Glorified Man</b> |
|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Able to sin         | Able to sin          | Able to sin       |                      |
| Able to not sin     |                      | Able to not sin   | Able to not sin      |
|                     | Unable to not sin    |                   |                      |
|                     |                      |                   | Unable to to sin     |

*(from Sproul, Chosen By God)*

One of the main texts in support of Augustine’s summary is Ephesians 2. In the first three verses we learn three things that were true of all of us before we believed in Christ:

1. Spiritual death: Unable to \_\_\_\_\_ good (1).
  
2. Moral rebellion: Unable to \_\_\_\_\_ temptation (2–3a).
  
3. Legal condemnation: Unable to \_\_\_\_\_ our guilt (3b).