



Total Depravity

- All became dead in sin and completely defiled in all the capabilities and parts of soul and body.¹
 - Genesis 6:5
 - Jeremiah 17:9
 - Romans 3:10–19
 - Titus 1:15

The Depravity of the Heart

- Jeremiah 17:1
- The Ten Commandments were engraved in stone, sin is engraved on the heart.
 - Ezekiel 36:26
 - Jeremiah 31:33
 - Mark 7:14–23

The Depravity of the Entire Life

- Depravity of the heart extends to the entirety of our lives.
 - Psalm 36:1–4
 - James 4:1–4
 - Galatians 5:19–21
- Sin affects our minds. This is referred to as the noetic effects of the Fall.
 - Romans 1:21
 - Ephesians 4:17–18
 - Romans 1:22–23
- Religion does not cure sin.
 - Romans 1:32
- Total depravity does not mean that sinners have no appreciation for morality and compassion or approve of every sin.
 - 1 Corinthians 5:1.
- The moral code changes. What was once considered wrong can now be considered right.
 - 2 Timothy 2:12–13
 - Isaiah 64:6
 - Proverbs 28:9
- Depraved man seeks to do away with sin by redefining sin.
- Whenever you redefine sin, you also must redefine salvation.
- Only a true vision of the holy God as revealed by the Word of God and the Spirit of God brings the reality of our depravity into focus.²

¹ LBCF 6.2, WCF 6.2.

² Beeke and Smalley, *Man and Christ*, 402–405.



Total Inability

Slaves to Sin

- John 8:34
- John 8:36
- John 8:44
- Satan is “the ruler of this world.” – John 12, 14, 16
- 2 Corinthians 4:4
- 1 John 3:8, 10
- 2 Timothy 2:26
- Romans 3:9
- Romans 6:14

Dead in Sin

- Ephesians 2:1–3
 - Being dead in sin is associated with the world, the devil, and the flesh.
 - Being dead in sin means being by nature under the wrath of God.

Free Will

- We must reject any form of Pelagianism. Pelagius believed man was born without original sin.
- There are several specific ways total inability of the unregenerate is revealed in Scripture.
 1. The unregenerate are unable to speak what God counts as good. Matthew 12:34
 2. The unregenerate are unable to obey God’s law and please God. Romans 8:7–8
 3. The unregenerate are unable to be saved. Matthew 19:23–26; John 6:53
 4. The unregenerate are unable to spiritually perceive or enter God’s kingdom. John 3:3–5
 5. The unregenerate are unable to listen to God’s Word with an open mind. John 8:43
 6. The unregenerate are unable to receive truth revealed by God’s Spirit. 1 Corinthians 2:14
 7. The unregenerate are unable to come to Christ in faith. 6:44, 65
 8. The unregenerate are unable to believe in Christ for salvation. John 12:37–40
 9. The unregenerate are unable to confess from the heart that Jesus is Lord. 1 Corinthians 12:3
 10. The unregenerate are unable to receive the Holy Spirit. John 14:16–17
 11. The unregenerate are unable to bear good fruit that glorifies God. John 15:5
- God’s law teaches us about our obligation to God, but it does not teach us about our ability to obey.
- Luke 6:32–34
- Romans 2:14–15
- Romans 13:1–7