

DEEPER THINGS

A dark, somber illustration of Adam and Eve in a tree. Adam is on the left, Eve on the right, both are nude and appear distressed. The tree has many branches and small, dark, hanging fruits. In the background, a bright cross is visible against a dark, cloudy sky.

ORIGINAL
SIN

TOTAL

DEPRAVITY

Original Sin

Definition

*The inherited corruption of
sinfulness passed to all
humanity because of Adam's
first sin.*

Total Depravity

Definition

The horrible reality that every part of human nature - our mind, our will, our emotions, our body - has been corrupted by sin, leaving humanity unable to choose or do spiritual good apart from God's grace.

How Original Sin and Total Depravity Relate

Original Sin answers the question of “who is born sinful”. The answer, plain and simple, is everyone.

Total Depravity answers the question of “how far has our sin corrupted us”. The answer, plain and simple, is completely and utterly.

Original Sin

Because Adam sinned, we...

- 1. Inherit His Legal Guilt:** Adam was not just the “first man”, he was the representative for Humanity. Therefore, the sentence for his crime - death - has been given to all people.
- 2. Inherit his Corruption:** Adams sin has been passed down to each of us like a genetic disease. No matter how much you may want to not sin, you will sin.

Key Scripture: Romans 5:12-19



Total Depravity

Because of sin, we are...

1. **Totally Corrupted:** All your deeds, even your “good” ones, are corrupted with sinful motivations, execution, and self-centeredness.
2. **Totally Insufficient:** Nothing you do will ever be enough to save or fundamentally change you.

Key Scripture: Romans 3:9b-12, Romans 8:7-8



Christ's Sacrifice

Because of Christ, we are...

1. **Atoned:** The Sin of Adam is replaced with the Righteousness of Christ.
2. **Justified:** Our guilt before God has been replaced with innocence.
3. **Sanctified:** The Holy Spirit is working within us, cleansing us of corruption and changing us to look more like Christ!



Why Does “Original Sin” & “Total Depravity” Matter?

1. **Because of Original Sin**; we know that the voices of this world are fundamentally wrong and broken. Therefore, we can look to God’s Holy Word as the one uncorrupted source of truth.
2. **Because of Original Sin**; we can know that, in Christ, God loved us so much that He wanted us *despite* who we are, not *because* of who we are.
3. **Because of Total Depravity**; we know that we cannot consider ourselves better than someone else; we are all in the same boat.
4. **Because of Total Depravity**; we know that every good thing that comes to us, even if we work for it, is a gift of love, grace, and mercy from God!

Reflection

Take this time to respond to the lesson in prayer. Think specifically about the sins that separate you from God and the salvation you've received in Christ.