



# DEEPER THINGS





TOTAL

DEPRAVITY

ORIGINAL  
SIN



# 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.*