

**Why CofC pt.7**  
**Because it teaches we are born innocent and not in sin.**  
**Psalm 51:5**  
**By Russell Earl**

Thesis: I want to show that we are born innocent and pure rather than in sin.

Intro:

1. Are babies born in sin?
2. Many honest and sincere people have been led to believe that since the fall of Adam every living soul is born with a corrupt nature, that is to say that every person is born sinful
3. It is affirmed that those who sin, and there are none who do not sin, bear evidence that all men have a corrupt nature.
4. This particular doctrine is known as " TOTAL HEREDITARY DEPRAVITY".
  - A. TOTAL 1. "Constituting the (or a) whole; entire; whole... 2. Complete; utter (a total loss) -n. The whole amount or number; sum; aggregate..."
  
  - B. HEREDITARY 1. "... of, passed down by inheritance from ancestor to a legal heir; ancestral... 2. Of, or passed down by, heredity; designating or of a characteristic transmitted genetically from generation to generation..."
  
  - C. DEPRAVITY "...A depraved condition; corruption; wickedness..." (Websters New World Dictionary of the American Language, second college edition).
5. The theory of total hereditary depravity claims that sinful corruption has been transmitted to the infant from the parent and that it is wholly inclined to evil; that it is inherently impure; that it is a child of the devil.
6. Today we will look at:
  - A. Some manuals and versions that promote this doctrine.
  - B. Some texts used to prove this doctrine.
  - C. Some passages that disprove this doctrine.

I. Some sources that promote this doctrine.

A. Church Manuals.

1. "**The Confession of Faith of the Presbyterian Church in The United States'**
  - a.** "Our first parents, being seduced by the subtlety and temptation of Satan sinned in eating the forbidden fruit. This their sin God was pleased, according to his wise and holy counsel, to permit, having purposed to order it to his own glory.
  - b.** By this sin they fell from their original righteousness and communion with God, and so became dead in sin and wholly defiled in all the faculties and parts of soul and body.
  - c.** They being the root of all mankind, the guilt of this sin was imputed, and the same death in sin and corruption nature from them by ordinary generation.
  - d.** From this original corruption, whereby we are utterly indisposed, disabled, and made opposite to all good, and wholly inclined to all evil, do proceed all actual transgressions.

**e.** This corruption as nature, during this life, doth remain in those that are regenerated; and although it be through Christ pardoned and mortified, yet both itself, and all the motions therefore, are truly and properly sin.

**f.** Every sin, both original and actual, being transgression of the righteous law of God, and contrary thereunto, doth, in its own nature, bring guilt upon the sinner, whereby he is bound over to the wrath of God, and curse of the law, and so made subject to death, with all miseries spiritual, temporal, and eternal.

2. ***Discipline of the Methodist Church 1948.*** "Original sin standeth not in the following of Adam (as the Pelagians do vainly talk), but it is the corruption of the nature of every man, that naturally is engendered of the offspring of Adam, whereby man is far gone from original righteousness, and of his own nature inclined to evil, and that continually".

3. ***Baptist Church Manual, by J.M. Pendleton.*** "We believe that man was created in holiness, under the law of his Maker; but by voluntary transgression fell from that holy and happy state; in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint but choice; being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, positively inclined to evil; and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin, without defense or excuse".

## B. Other sources on depravity.

1. ***The Lutheran Cyclopedia,*** "The inborn sin which all human beings, naturally engendered, inherit at their origin from their parents, and which is the source whence the actual sins of every individual proceed..."

2. ***Catholic Dictionary and Encyclopedia of Religious Information,*** "Original sin is the sin which we inherit by natural descent from Adam, our first father".

3. ***The Depravity of Man by Dr. W.R. Crews,*** "Human depravity is a direct result of the fall of the race in Adam. By depravity we mean that man's entire being is spiritually corrupt before God. The entire man (body, mind, soul and spirit) has become affected and poisoned by sin. This condition is passed along to all men by conception and natural birth. Every man that is born is born wrong. He is as prone to sin, evil and unrighteousness as a falling object is to fall or the human lungs to breathe. Every part of man's nature is marred by sin and is vitiated and totally corrupt. One may ask, "is man totally depraved? Yes, indeed he is".

## II. Some texts twisted in an attempt to support this false doctrine.

### A. **Psalms 51:5**

1. Refers to David being born into a world of sin or iniquity - he was brought forth into a world where sin prevails.

2. Understand this verse better we should consider its context. Notice with me **Ps 51:3-5** David here is confessing his sin before God. He is not saying He sinned because he was born in sin, he's saying he was brought forth in a world that is dominated by sin. In reality David is saying he was born in a world dominated with sin.

**Notice what this commentator says about Psalms 51:5**

*"Infants are no innocents, being born with original sin, the first sheet wherein they are wrapped is woven of sin, shame, blood, and filth. [Ezekiel 16:4](#)(this is concerning Jerusalem not a literally person), etc...All are sinners, infected with the guilt and filth of sin; the rot (according to the vulgar saying) over runs the whole flock. Hence David reflects upon original sin as the cause of all his actual, saying, Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me. Thus man's malady begins betimes, even in our conception; this subtle serpent sowed his tares very early, so that we are all "born in sin." [John 9:34](#)(They believed since the man was born blind that this confirmed he was born in sin). **Christopher Ness's "Divine Legacy," 1700**"*

**B. Psalms 58:3**

1. Note they went astray after they were born, not born astray. Their going astray consisted of speaking lies. Infants cannot speak lies therefore the passage does not refer to infants.

2. If infants are under consideration as some claim, then one has infant damnation in light of **Rev 21:8**.

**Note:** If all liars will be punished in the lake of fire. And if all infants are born into the world speaking lies. Then it follows that all infants are born to the face the punishment of the lake of fire.

**C. Isaiah 48:8**

"called a transgressor from the womb".

1. Transgression involves voluntary act. – HOW can an infant purposely decide to transgress God's law? If a child doesn't even know who God is(because the child is too young to understand) how can the child willfully transgress the law of the God they do not know?

2. **1 John 3:4** - how can a child be guilty of sin at its birth if it does nothing but the normal functions of a child? When did the child sin?

- This verse refers to Israel as a Nation, not to individuals.

**D. Eph 2:3**

"were by nature children of wrath, just as the others."

1. The word nature refers to sinful habits not heredity, Thayer's lexicon says "a mode of feeling and acting which by long habit has become nature", Pg 660.

2. Thus, our nature is created by how we have chosen to live our life after a number of years, we create our own nature by choosing sin or righteousness. However, we are not born with a "sinful nature".

**III. Passages that refute (disprove) this doctrine.**

**A. Gen 8:21**

"imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth".

Note, If man's heart becomes evil in youth, then it must have been pure before youth.

**B. Eccl 12:7**

"the spirit returns to God who gave it". If God gave man a corrupt spirit, would it not be unjust for God to hold man responsible for his actions?

**C. Acts 17:28**

"for we are also his offspring". Being the offspring of God would demand that a child is not depraved unless God is depraved.

D. The Holy Spirit through the prophet Ezekiel declared the children shall not bear the iniquity of the father. **Ezekiel 18:19-20**

**E. Matt 19:14 – How did Christ view children? *Innocent***

H. Infants are born innocent because they cannot know what is right or wrong and because God does not send us into the world full of sin but innocent and given free will to choose right or wrong.

Concl:

1. The doctrine of "HEREDITARY TOTAL DEPRAVITY" is a doctrine that is contrary to clear Bible teaching.
2. Regardless of what the precepts of man teach, we must go to scripture for the answers.