

Soteriology: Studies Concerning Salvation

3/10/2019

Lesson 1. The Need for Salvation: Death and Depravity

- Adam's sin brought death, depravity, and disability to the entire human race.



Death

I. All individuals in the human race are subject to physical death.

 Romans 5:12-13; Romans 6:23

Physical death is the separation of the soul and spirit from the body.

II. All individuals in the human race are born spiritually dead.

 Psalm 58:3 "The wicked are estranged from the womb; those who speak lies go astray from birth."

 1 Corinthians 15:22; Ephesians 2:1-3

Spiritual death is the separation from a holy God because of sin.

III. Apart from salvation in Jesus Christ, persons who die will experience the second death.

 Revelation 2:11; 20:6, 14-15; 21:8

The second death is the eternal separation of an individual from God in the Lake of Fire.

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Depravity of Mankind

I. Definition: Human nature is corrupt, perverse, and sinful throughout.

Because of Adam's sin, our human nature is corrupt and sinful.

 Genesis 6:5; Psalm 14:3; Romans 7:18

A. Depravity does not mean:

1. That a person is as bad as he possibly can be.
2. That a person lacks a conscience for right or wrong.
3. That a person is prone to every form of sin.
4. That a person has no qualities pleasing to mankind.

B. Depravity does mean:

1. The unsaved have a fixed bias, preferring self to God.
 - 2 Timothy 3:2 "*men will be lovers of self*"
2. The unsaved are totally lacking in love toward God.
(Note: This is the primary requirement of the Law.)
 - 2 Timothy 3:4 "*lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God*"
3. The unsaved possess hostility toward God.
 - Romans 8:7 "*the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God.*"

C. The unsaved are not credited with any thought, act, or emotion which meets with divine approval.

- Romans 7:18 "*For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh.*"
- Romans 8:8 "*those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*"
- Hebrews 11:6 "*without faith it is impossible to please Him,*"

II. Depravity originates with Adam's sin.

A. Adam's sin:

1. The command not to sin and penalty is found in Genesis 2:16-17.
2. The transgression is found in Genesis 3:1-7.
3. The results are seen in Genesis 3:7-24.
 - a. Adam was guilty of disobedience to God.
 - b. Adam became spiritually dead, separated from fellowship with God.
 - c. Adam began to die physically.
 - d. Adam acquired a corrupt, sinful nature.

B. Adam's sin impacts the entire human race.

1. Imputed sin – In Adam, all sinned (Romans 5:12-21).
2. Sin nature – Adam's children were born "according to his image" (Genesis 5:3).
3. Depravity – All are by nature sinful (Ephesians 2:3; Colossians 2:13; Romans 5:12).

III. Depravity is true from birth.

- BOOK Psalm 58:3 "The wicked are estranged from the womb; these who speak lies go astray from birth."
- BOOK Job 15:14-16 "What is man, that he should be pure, or he who is born of a woman, that he should be righteous?"
- BOOK 1 Peter 1:18 "knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers,"
- BOOK Ephesians 2:3 "Among whom we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest."

IV. All individuals are sinful.

- BOOK 2 Chronicles 6:36 "there is no man who does not sin"
- BOOK Ecclesiastes 7:20 "there is not a righteous man on earth who continually does good and who never sins."
- BOOK Psalm 143:2 "In Thy sight no man living is righteous."
- BOOK Romans 3:23 "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."
- BOOK Isaiah 53:6 "All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way;"

Also Romans 3:9-18; cf. Psalm 14:1-3

V. Every facet of one's being is corrupt. Individuals are sinful throughout.

1. The flesh. Romans 7:18; 8:5-8; John 6:63

- BOOK "I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh." Romans 7:18
- BOOK "The mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God." Romans 8:7
- BOOK "What is man, that he should be pure, or he who is born of a woman, that he should be righteous?" Job 15:14-16

2. The heart (The heart represents our entire inner being.)

- BOOK Jeremiah 17:9 "The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick."
- BOOK Ecclesiastes 9:3 "The hearts of the sons of men are full of evil, and insanity is in their hearts throughout their lives."
- BOOK Mark 7:21-23 "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness. All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man."

a. Desire

Psalm 10:3 "The wicked boasts of his heart's desires."

John 8:44 "You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father."

b. Intellect

Mark 7:21 (evil thoughts); Genesis 6:5

(also see Romans 8:7-8; 1 Corinthians 2:14; Ephesians 4:18; Romans 3:11; Titus 1:15)

c. Will Mark 7:21 (behavior and actions); John 3:19-20

(also see John 5:39-40; Romans 3:11)

d. Emotion Proverbs 2:14 (also see John 3:19-20... men loved darkness)

➤ **Mankind's nature and disposition is toward sin.**

Application

1. In general, do people recognize their need for salvation?
Why or why not?

2. What does our culture think of sin? (Give specific examples.)

3. What does our culture think of God? (Give specific examples.)

4. What does our culture think of death and heaven or hell?

④ Discuss the following questions?

1. Do people today generally understand the existence of a holy and just God?

2. Do people today generally understand their destination after death will be heaven or hell?

3. Do people today generally understand their sinfulness?

4. Do people today generally understand their need for salvation apart from anything they can do?

④ Which of these should we be prepared to explain to people we know or meet?

④ On a scale of 1-10, how prepared are you to explain to someone their need for salvation?