

The Five Points of Calvinism

The Doctrines of Grace

The TULIP

- **T**otal Depravity
- **U**nconditional Election
- **L**imited Atonement
- **I**rresistible Grace
- **P**erseverance of the Saints

Introduction

- “Man is very, very bad, and God is very, very mad”—R.C. Sproul.
- Man’s depravity comes from man’s sin in the garden... “Dying, you shall die” (Gen 2:17).
- Thus, all men are born “dying,” and we shall all eventually die as a result (Rom 5:12-21).
- Pelagius (4th century) denied the doctrine of original sin; believed Adam’s sin only affected Adam (Pelagianism); semi-Pelagians believe Adam’s sin only partially affected mankind.

- Semi-pelagians (i.e., Arminians) have always argued against total depravity; at the Synod of Dort (1618-1619) they were condemned and removed from their pulpits.
- They believed that unregenerate man is not totally dead in his sins or deprived of all capacity for spiritual good. Instead, they believe that man can hunger & thirst for righteousness and offer the sacrifices to God of a broken and contrite heart that is pleasing to God.

Total Depravity

- **Definition:** Due to the effects of man's fall in the garden, man's original relationship of fellowship with God was broken; as a result, man's once-sinless nature was corrupted. Now man can do nothing to gain favor with God.
- Thus, total depravity speaks to the nature of man as being unable to earn favor with God through works because of the corruption of original sin.
- Man is not as evil as he could be, but his depravity makes him unable to attain goodness.

Man Has a Corrupt...

- **Mind**—his “*nous*” (intellect) and ability to reason properly was lost after the fall. His ability to reason was not destroyed, but it was seriously affected, defiled, and injured. The depraved mind has no pleasure in the knowledge of God (cf. Rom 1:28).
- **Will**—man’s will is unable to perform any spiritual good. It is enslaved to sin (Eccl. 7:20; 9:3; Jer. 17:9; Eph. 2:1-10; Col. 2:13).
- **Affections**—man hates when he should love; expresses joy when he should mourn, etc.

Absolutely Depraved?

- Absolute depravity refers to the soul being as bad as it possibly could be. Yet unconverted people still reveal their knowledge of the Law of God written on their hearts (Rom 2:15).
- Not everyone follows through with murder when they're angry, and very few of us act as badly as we could act.

BIBLICALLY SPEAKING...

Spiritual Deadness

- God's original promise of death, both spiritual and physical: *The LORD God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die"* (Genesis 2:16–17; cf. Ephesians 2:1-10).

God's promise of death fulfilled

- Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned (Rom 5:12)
- When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions (Colossians 2:13)
- Note how these passages speak of spiritual death, not physical.

- *You were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them 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 (Ephesians 2:1–3).*

All humans are conceived in sin...

- *Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me (Psalm 51:5).*
- *The wicked are estranged from the womb; These who speak lies go astray from birth (Psalm 58:3)*

Man's need to be "born again"

- "Unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be born again'" (John 3:5–7)
- As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God (John 1:12–13)

The results of depravity

- *The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually (Gen 6:5).*
- *The LORD said...“the intent of man’s heart is evil from his youth...” (Gen 8:21)*
- *The hearts of the sons of men are full of evil and insanity is in their hearts throughout their lives. Afterwards they go to the dead (Eccl 9:3).*

- *The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it? (Jeremiah 17:9)*
- *Jesus: 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 (Mark 7:21–23).*

- *This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil (John 3:19).*
- *because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God (Rom 8:7–8).*
- *A natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised (1 Cor 2:14).*

- *...as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness... for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light (Ephesians 4:17-19; 5:8).*
- *To the pure, all things are pure; but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled (Titus 1:15).*

Bondage to Sin & Satan

- *You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies (John 8:44).*
- *You were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience (Eph 2:1–2).*

- *...correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will (2 Tim 2:25–26).*
- *Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin (John 8:34).*
- *For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness (Rom 6:20).*

- *By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother (1 John 3:10).*
- *We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one (1 John 5:19).*
- *For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another (Titus 3:3).*

Universal Bondage

- *When they sin against You, for there is no man who does not sin... (2 Chronicles 6:36)*
- *What is man, that he should be pure, Or he who is born of a woman, that he should be righteous? Behold, He puts no trust in His holy ones, and the heavens are not pure in His sight; how much less one who is detestable and corrupt, man, who drinks iniquity like water (Job 15:14–16).*

- *If You, LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? (Psalm 130:3).*
- *And do not enter into judgment with Your servant, for in Your sight no man living is righteous (Psalm 143:2).*
- *Who can say, “I have cleansed my heart, I am pure from my sin?” (Proverbs 20:9).*
- *Indeed, there is not a righteous man on earth who continually does good and who never sins (Ecclesiastes 7:20).*

- *Behold, I have found only this, that God made men upright, but they have sought out many devices (Ecclesiastes 7:29).*
- *All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him (Isaiah 53:6).*
- *For all of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment; and all of us wither like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away (Isaiah 64:6).*

- *...both Jews and Greeks are all under sin; as it is written, "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE; THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD; ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE (Rom 3:9–12).*
- *For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well... But no one can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison (James 3:2, 8).*
- *If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us... If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us (1 John 1:8, 10).*

Man's inability to change

- *Who can make the clean out of the unclean? No one! (Job 14:4)*
- *You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they? So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit (Matt 7:16–18).*

- *Jesus: No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day (John 6:44).*
- *Or WHO HAS FIRST GIVEN TO HIM THAT IT MIGHT BE PAID BACK TO HIM AGAIN? For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen (Rom 11:35–36).*

- *For who regards you as superior? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it? (1 Cor 4:7)*
- *Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God (2 Cor 3:5).*

Good News!

- While the believer remains depraved throughout his life, his character, thoughts, and conduct continue to be transformed daily by the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit.
- Present the gospel freely, and pray for everyone you share it with that they have their eyes opened to the Truth.

BTCP Question

- Work through a three page paper using as many passages from this presentation as you wish, preaching through the doctrine of man's depravity. Since the five points of Calvinism are so controversial to many, show why the doctrine of depravity is the most important point. After all, if man is totally depraved in the sense that he is spiritually dead, how else could he be saved unless God forced Himself upon a chosen few?