



# Biblical Anthropology

Handout 3

## THE SCRIPTURAL TEACHING ABOUT THE EFFECT OF ADAM'S SIN ON THE WHOLE HUMAN RACE

All men, without respect of condition or class, are sinners before God.

- Romans 3:9-10 NIV ... *Jews and Gentiles alike are all under the power of sin. (10) As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one;*
- Romans 3:22-23 NIV ... *There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, (23) for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*
- Psalm 14
- Isaiah 53:6 NIV *We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way ...*

There may be a difference in the degree, but not in the fact of sin.

This universal sinful condition is vitally connected with the sin of Adam.

- Romans 5:12 NIV *Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned--*
- Romans 5:16 NIV *Nor can the gift of God be compared with the result of one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation ...*
- Romans 5:19 NIV *For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners...*

The whole world rests under condemnation, wrath, and curse.

- Romans 3:19 NIV ... *every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God.*
- Galatians 3:10 NIV *For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse, as it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law."*
- Ephesians 2:3 NIV *All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.*

The law of God demands a perfect obedience; but no son of man can yield such obedience; hence the curse of a broken law rests upon those breaking it. The wrath of God abides on all not vitally united by faith to Jesus Christ

- John 3:36 NIV *Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them.*

Unregenerate men are regarded as children of the devil, and not sons of God.

- 1 John 3:8-10 NIV *The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, ... (10) This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are...*
- John 8:44 NIV *You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires...*
- 1 John 5:19 NIV *We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.*

The whole race of men are in helpless captivity to sin and Satan.

- Rom. 7, chapter entire;

- John 8:34 NIV ... *Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin.*
- Ephesians 2:3 NIV *All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.*

The entire nature of man, mentally, morally, spiritually, physically, is sadly affected by sin.

The understanding is darkened

- Ephesians 4:18 NIV *They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.*
- 1 Corinthians 2:14 NIV *The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.*

The heart is deceitful and wicked

- Jeremiah 17:9 NIV *The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure...*

The mind and conscience are defiled

- Genesis 6:5 NIV *The LORD saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time.*
- Titus 1:15 NIV *To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted.*

The flesh and spirit are defiled

- 2 Corinthians 7:5 NIV *For when we came into Macedonia, we had no rest, but we were harassed at every turn--conflicts on the outside, fears within.*

The will is enfeebled

- Romans 7:18 NIV *For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.*

## TOTAL DEPRAVITY

"Total depravity" is the term theologians use to summarize the effects of the Fall.

Total depravity does not mean that:

Humans are without value. Though deeply fallen, we still retain vestiges of God's image (**Jas. 3:9**) and (more importantly) we remain the objects of God's redemptive love (**Jn. 3:16**). This is why all forms of prejudice (racial; ethnic; gender; cultural; economic; educational; etc.) are wrong.

Humans are as evil as they could be. Fallen humans (including non-Christians) are capable of doing good and noble things.

Total depravity does mean that:

The Fall affects every human being. Notice the "none" and "all" in **Rom. 3:9-11**.

Every area of our lives has been adversely affected. We are not good people who sometimes do bad things; we are deeply sinful people with corrupted bodies, minds, emotions, will, etc. There is no part of our humanity that does not need to be redeemed by God. Even our good deeds are now tainted with evil motives.

None of us can be accepted by God on the basis of our own righteousness or moral/spiritual effort (**Rom. 3:19,20**). As sinful beings, God's acceptance must be an undeserved gift (grace).

- We would never seek for God without his prior initiative. "No one seeks for God" on their own (**Romans 3:11**). The fact that we become seekers is the result of God's prior initiative to seek us and convict us of our need for him (**Jn. 6:44**).

The only answer for total depravity is God's radical grace! We cannot save ourselves; God must save us—and he will save us!