

Human Nature

WHAT IS IT?

WHAT DID THE

CREATOR

GIVE US?

False Ideas About Human

Nature

- **Augustine: “Man’s nature, indeed, was created at first faultless and without any sin; but that nature of man in which everyone is born from Adam, now wants the Physician, because it is not sound” (Augustine, *A Treatise on Nature and Grace against Pelagius*, 3).**

False Ideas About Human

Nature

- **John Calvin: “. . . Free will does not enable any man to perform good works, unless he is assisted by grace; indeed, the special grace which the elect alone receive through regeneration” (John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, Book 2, 2.6)**

False Ideas About Human

Nature

Westminster Confession of Faith:

“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” (*Westminster Confession of Faith*, 6.4).

False Ideas About Human Nature

“This corruption of 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 thereof, are truly and properly sin” (*ibid.*, 6.5).

These False Ideas Assert That:

- Adam's sin changed human nature. It is now corrupt and inclined toward sin
- We can't obey without empowering grace. Only the direct operation of the Holy Spirit enables us to do what is good

These False Ideas Assert That:

- This grace does not change human nature. Even if one is chosen by God and saved, he retains a depraved nature that continues to sin
- Christ shared man's original nature, not his corrupt inherited nature

What Do The Scriptures Say?

- Gen. 3:23
- Gen. 4:6-7
- Gen. 6:5-8
- Ezek. 14:14,20
- Heb. 11:7
- 2 Pet. 2:5

The Scriptures Admonish Us To Obey

- Deut. 30:11-14
- Rom. 10:4-8
- Titus 2:11-12
- Deut. 30:19-20
- Josh. 14:14-15
- 1 Chron. 28:8-10
- 1 Kings 11:33-39

What Kind Of “Nature” Did Jesus Have?

- Descendant of Adam (Lk. 3:23-38)
- Jesus was flesh (Rom. 9:5)
- Jesus was made like his brethren (Heb. 2:14-17)
- Jesus came “in the likeness of sinful flesh” (Rom. 8:3) – but flesh is only sinful by sinning
- Sharing our nature qualified Jesus to be our propitiation (Heb. 4:14-16)