

The Doctrine of Hereditary Total Depravity

by Bill Crews

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be upon him.” Please read the context in verses 19-24.

The innocent may have to bear some of the **consequences** of the sins of the guilty, but God does not place the guilt of one upon another; each bears his own guilt. In the New Testament we are always said to be lost because of our own sins, not the sins of Adam. And we are said to be saved from our own sins, not the sins of Adam. One of the purest, most innocent things you will ever look upon is a little baby, and your Bible does not teach that they are born lost, guilty of Adam’s sin, and having a totally depraved nature. A person is not lost until he is able to know right from wrong (look at Deut. 1:39: *“and your children, that this day have no knowledge of good and evil”*) and **chooses** to sin. Jesus taught that we cannot even enter His kingdom and that we cannot become great in His kingdom without becoming **as little children** (Matt. 18:1-4). Jesus taught that the kingdom of God belongs to **“such”** (those who become as little children), and that one cannot even enter the kingdom without receiving it **“as a little child”** (Lk. 18:15-17). How then can they be totally depraved? And, finally, a look at the second-most-appealed-to passage to support this God-dishonoring doctrine. It is Ephesians 2:3, *“Among whom we also all once lived in the lusts of our flesh, doing the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.”* Reader friend, *“by nature”* in this passage does not refer to birth, but to a nature that is the result of practice or habit, the result of one’s own choice.

If you are lending your support to a church that teaches such a doctrine, you need to get out of it. And you certainly owe it to yourself to find out what the church of which you are a member teaches.

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