

Radical Depravity

1 Introduction

• Questions to Ponder


- Do you know anyone who is generally a good person, but they don't believe? What will happen to them in eternity? WHY is that?
- Is it fair that real Christians who are not as good as non-Christians get to go to heaven when non-Christians don't? Why or why not?
- Are you a good person? WHY or why not?

Pray

Review

- Theology/Doctrine is practical
- Reformed Theology Fives Solas: Sola Scriptura, Solus Christus, Sola Fide, Sola Gratia, Soli Deo Gloria
- Overview of the Course
 - Total Depravity (Today)
 - Unconditional Election (Chosen by God)
 - Particular Redemption (Limited Atonement)
 - Regeneration
 - Irresistible Grace (Repentance and Faith)
 - Preservation of the Saints: Assurance (Perseverance of the Saints)

• Resources

- **The Bible**
- **Books**
 - [The Total Depravity of Man by A. W. Pink \(monergism.com\)](http://monergism.com)
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- <http://www.biblebb.com/files/edwards/dreadful.htm>
- Sproul, R. C. What is Reformed Theology?
- Lawrence, Michael. Biblical Theology in the Life of the Church.
- Lectures (RTS App, web: Systematic Theology -> Introduction to Pastoral Theological Studies)

2 Defining Radical Depravity

- **What Radical/Total depravity does not say**
 - It does not mean that we are as evil as we can be
 - It does not mean that people don't have any knowledge about God
- **What does the doctrine say?**
 - Definition of Radical Depravity "Since the Fall, humans are enslaved to sin and by nature bent toward evil in every part."
 - We don't seek God. Even doing "good things" for the wrong reasons is not seeking God
 - Use Todd's illustration of going toward God or away and give several examples and ask if they are truly Seeking God

3 Radical Depravity comes from Gods Word

- Genesis 3: 1-23
 - What did we lose? We lost GOD!
 1. Our conscience is no longer pure before GOD (3:10)
 2. We lost wisdom before God (3:8)
 3. We lost enjoyment of the thought of God as judge (3: 9-10). Note: Innocent people generally want a justice system that punishes the guilty
 4. Our hearts are hardened before God (3: 12). Notice no confession/repentance
 5. We justify ourselves instead of seeking God's mercy and grace (3:12)
 6. We lost full honoring of God (3:12). See Adams challenge to God
 7. We lost pure relationship between man and his neighbor (3:12)
 8. We lost spiritual and physical life before God and god suffering and death (3:19)
 9. We lost our dominion to reign with God (3:20-22)
 10. We lost fellowship with God (3:22-23)
- The loss is perpetuated to Adam's descendants throughout scripture (12 mins)
 - Romans 5:12-14
 - Isaiah 53:6.
 - Ephesians 2:1-3.
 - Gen 6:5. Before the flood
 - Gen 8:21-22. After the flood
 - Psalm 14:1-3
 - Psalm 51:3-5
- Other Scriptures
 - Job 15:14-16?
 - Isaiah 64:6
 - Ezekiel 36:26
 - John 3:1-8, 19-21
 - John 6:44, 64-65
 - Romans 1:18-32
 - Romans 3:9-18 (note the OT references)
 - Romans 6:16-19
 - Romans 8:7-8
 - Romans 14:23
 - 1 Corinthians 2:14-16

4 Radical Depravity from Logic

- **Our obligation as created beings to our creator? (5 mins)**
 - There is no obligation greater than the obligation the created has to the creator
 - It's about relationship.
- What does our creator require of His creation?
 - **Deut 6:4-5**
- We are condemned because our first representative sinned
 - Activity:
- **We are condemned because we sin.**
 - Actually we sin because we are condemned
 - Activity

5 But God...

- The story does not end there,
 - **Romans 5:18-19.**
 - **Eph 2:4-10.**
 - **Romans 3:23-26,**
 - **WE GET GOD! Romans 5: 10-11. John 17**

6 Radical Depravity and the Christian Life

Note: Much of the content below is from the RTS "Intro to Pastoral Theological Studies, lectures available on the RTS APP or online).

- RD explains why the world is in such a
- RD exalts God's free grace and mercy.
- RD reminds us what we would be were it not for God's grace and mercy
- RD keeps us humble and reliant on God's continued grace and mercy.
- RD guards against self-righteousness and boastful comparisons with others.
- RD reminds us that education and technology are not the solution to the world's problems.
- RD keeps us from being discouraged when our preaching and evangelism aren't 'successful'.
- RD keeps us from being discouraged when our parenting doesn't produce 'good' children.
- RD means that ministry must take into account the seriousness of our fallen state.
- RD encourages us that the new creation must be no less good than this world is bad! .

7 Closing Summary

- **Definition of Radical Depravity** "Since the Fall, humans are enslaved to sin and by nature bent toward evil in every part."
- All of mankind deserves the judgement of eternal damnation both because we sinned in Adam and because we ourselves sin
 - Romans 5:12-14, Psalm 14:1-3
 - God have us the greatest commandment in Deut 6:4-5 and we all violate it daily
- Radical depravity does not mean that everything is as bad as it can be (total/radical, not utter). There is common grace for all

- Radical Depravity means that we should be bold but humble in our ministry. We are more dependent on God than we can ever comprehend but God is more powerful, gracious, and merciful than we can imagine.

8 Additional information

History

Augustine of Hippo (354-430) – “The Father of the Reformation”

A. “It is Augustine who gave us the Reformation.” (B.B. Warfield)

B. Debate with Pelagius

1. Augustine: “Give what you command, and command what you will.” (Confessions)

2. Pelagius: “Responsibility implies ability.”

a. No original sin (i.e., inherited guilt and corruption)

b. We are perfectly free to do good or evil.

c. We can be saved by human effort apart from divine grace.

d. Council of Carthage (418) – denounced Pelagianism

D. Council of Ephesus (431) – denounced Pelagianism (re-affirmed decision at Carthage)

E. Second Council of Orange (529) – denounced both Pelagianism and semi-Pelagianism