

**Article of Faith 4**  
**Total Depravity**

- Article of Faith #4 – Total Depravity of Man
  - We believe in the doctrine of original sin that Adam’s fall in the garden plunged his entire posterity into death in trespasses and sins and that man cannot, of his own free will and ability, recover himself from the fallen state that he is in by nature.
  
- 1. Fall of Man
  - A. Man was originally made a pure, good creation by God
    - Gen. 1:26-27 – Adam was made in the image of God
    - Eccl. 7:29 – God made Adam “*upright*”
  - B. Sin entered into the world by Adam’s transgression of God’s command
    - 1 John 3:4 – “*for sin is the transgression of the law*”
  - C. The penalty for Adam’s transgression was death
    - Gen. 2:17 – “*in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die*”
    - Rom. 6:23 – “*for the wages of sin is death*”
    - James 1:15 – “*sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death*”
    - Ezek. 18:4 – “*...the soul that sinneth, it shall die.*”
      - Ezek. 18:20-24, Rom. 8:2, 1 Cor. 15:56
  
- 2. Original Sin
  - A. Adam’s sin was imparted onto all of his posterity; now that Adam was a sinful man, he could only reproduce a sinful posterity
    - Gen. 5:3 – Adam’s son was then born “*in his own likeness, after his image*”
      - Gen. 1:24-25 – Adam could only produce offspring “*after his kind*” which was sinful and corrupt
      - Job 14:4 – “*Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? not one.*”
      - Eph. 2:1-3, Titus 3:3-5 – Our nature is now sinful and corrupt
  - B. Adam – as the representative (or federal head) of all mankind – plunged all men into sin
    - Rom. 5:12-21
      - “*Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men for all have sinned:*” (5:12)
      - “*Therefore as by the offense of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation;*” (5:18)
    - 1 Cor. 15:21-22
      - “*For since by man came death... For as in Adam all die...*”
  
- 3. Total Depravity
  - A. Now, as a result of Adam’s sin, all men are “totally depraved” (or “fully corrupt”)
    - Rom. 7:18 – in man’s flesh “*dwelleth no good thing*”
    - Ps. 53:3 – “*they are altogether become filthy*” (“*filthy*” literally means “*corrupt*”)

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3. Total Depravity (Continued)

B. Sinners by Nature from Conception

- i. Ps. 51:5 – *“Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.”*
- ii. Ps. 39:5 – *“every man at his best state is altogether vanity”*
- iii. Eph. 2:3 – *“by nature”* man is just like *“the children of wrath”* in the world
  - Titus 3:3

C. Sinners by Practice

- i. We begin to sin immediately, even from the womb
  - a. Isaiah 48:8 – *“for I knew that thou wouldst deal very treacherously, and was called a transgressor from the womb.”*
  - b. Ps. 58:3 – *“The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies.”*
    - Job 11:12, Prov. 22:15
- ii. All men are sinners by practice with no exceptions
  - a. Rom. 3:9-18 (Gal. 3:22)
    - *“for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin; As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one.”* (Rom. 3:9b-10)
    - *“There is none that doeth good, no, not one.”* (Rom. 3:12)
      - Ps. 14:1-3, Ps. 53:1-3, Micah 7:2-6, Eccl. 7:20
  - b. There is no man that does not sin
    - Rom. 3:23 – *“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”*
    - Eccl. 7:20 – *“For there is not a just man upon the earth that doeth good, and sinneth not.”*
      - 1 John 1:8,10, 1 Kg. 8:46, 2 Chr. 6:36, Ps. 130:3

D. Characteristics of the totally depraved man

- i. Man is dead in trespasses and in sins
  - a. Eph. 2:1-5 – *“(1) And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins... 5) Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)”*
    - Col. 2:13, Rom. 4:17, 2 Cor. 5:14, John 5:25, Rom. 5:6
    - Gen. 2:17, Rom. 5:12-21, 1 Cor. 15:21-22, Rom. 6:23
- ii. Man’s nature is totally corrupt
  - a. *“Corrupt are they, and have done abominable iniquity:”* – Ps. 53:1
  - b. Wicked
    - Ps. 5:9 – *“their inward part is very wickedness”*
    - 1 Sam. 24:3 – *“wickedness proceedeth out of the wicked”*
    - Ps. 10:4, Gen. 6:5, Gen. 8:21
    - God hates the wicked
      - Ps. 5:5, Ps. 11:5, Hosea 9:15
      - Because God hates wickedness – Ps. 5:5, 45:7

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3. Total Depravity (Continued)

D. Characteristics of the totally depraved man (Continued)

ii. Man's nature is totally corrupt (Continued)

c. Not righteous or good

- Rom. 3:10-12, Ps. 14:1-3, Ps. 53:1-3, Micah 7:2-6, Eccl. 7:20, Isaiah 64:6, Matt. 19:17

d. Every part of man is fully corrupt

- Heart – Jer. 17:9-10, Matt. 15:19, Prov. 6:18, Eccl. 9:3
- Mind – Rom. 8:6-8, Isaiah 59:7
- Eyes – Rom. 3:18, Ps. 36:1
- Throat – Rom. 3:13, Ps. 5:9
- Tongue – Rom. 3:13, Ps. 5:9, Ps. 10:7, Ps. 140:3
- Lips – Rom. 3:13, Ps. 140:3, Prov. 12:22, Prov. 24:2
- Mouth – Rom. 3:14, Ps. 10:7
- Feet – Rom. 3:15, Prov. 6:18, Isaiah 59:7
- Hands – Prov. 6:17, Isaiah 59:3

iii. Man is totally opposed to God

a. Enemies of God

- Rom. 5:10, Rom. 8:7, Col. 1:21
- They even hate men who act godly
  - Prov. 29:27 – *“he that is upright in the way is abomination to the wicked”*

b. Will not and cannot seek after God

- Rom. 3:11, Ps. 10:4, Ps. 53:2, John 5:40, John 6:44

c. Cannot do good

- Rom. 3:10-12, Ps. 14:1-3, Ps. 53:1-3, Micah 7:2-6, Eccl. 7:20
- Gal. 5:22 – Note that *“goodness”* is a fruit of the Spirit and an attribute of God, and the wicked are totally opposed to goodness

d. Cannot please God

- Rom. 8:8, Heb. 11: 6 (it's impossible)

e. Cannot be subject to the law of God

- Rom. 8:7-8

f. Cannot hear or truly believe the word of God

- John 8:43 (43-48), John 10:26 (25-27)

g. Cannot understand spiritual things

- 1 Cor. 2:12-14, Rom. 3:11, Ps. 53:2, Rom. 8:5-8

h. Do not fear God

- Rom. 3:18, Ps. 36:1, Ps. 55:19

i. Engages in all manner of carnal sin and lust

- 2 Pet. 2:14 – *“cannot cease from sin”*
- Gal. 5:16-21, Eph. 2:2-3, Rom. 8:5-8, Titus 3:3

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4. Man is totally incapable of recovering himself from his fallen condition
  - A. Man does not have the ability to improve his state or meet any condition for salvation
    - i. Man is dead in sins with no life or ability to approach unto God (3-D-i)
      - a. Until man is given life, he cannot approach unto God; dead men have no ability to perform any action
    - ii. Man is fully corrupt and wicked with no good in his nature (3-D-ii)
      - a. Until man's nature is changed, he cannot do good in the sight of God
        - Jer. 13:23 – Natural man who is wicked and dead in his sins has just as much ability to choose to do good as an Ethiopian has ability to choose to change his skin color or a leopard has ability to choose to remove his spots; all three cases have no ability to improve or change their condition
      - b. Until man's sin is removed, God cannot even look upon him
        - God cannot even look upon sin
          - Hab. 1:13 – *"Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity"*
        - c. Until a man's sin is removed, he cannot offer a prayer or sacrifice that is acceptable before God
          - Prov. 28:9 – Prayer of the wicked is an abomination before God
          - Prov. 15:8, 21:27 – Sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination before God
            - Gen. 4:3-5, Heb. 11:4, 1 John 3:12 – God did not accept the sacrifice of Cain because he was wicked
      - iii. Man does not have the ability to seek God (3-D-iii-b), do good (3-D-iii-c), please God (3-D-iii-d), obey God (3-D-iii-e), believe God (3-D-iii-f), or understand spiritual things (3-D-iii-g)
        - a. Until a man is given life and a new nature, he has no ability to seek God, do good works, please or obey God, or even to please God
          - Man must be given the Spirit of God in the new birth to believe God and please God
            - 1 Cor. 12:3 – No man can believe God without the Spirit
            - Heb. 11:6 – Faith is a fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22), so it is impossible for man to please God without the Spirit
    - B. How does man receive new life and receive a new nature?
      - i. By man making a choice to change and convert himself?
        - a. Man who is dead in sins is wholly unable to change or improve his condition (see all of 4-A above for the empty plight of man)
          - Jer. 13:23
      - ii. By man praying a prayer?
        - a. The prayers and sacrifices of wicked man are an abomination in the sight of God (see 4-A-ii-c)

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4. Man is totally incapable of recovering himself from his fallen condition (Continued)
  - B. How does man receive new life and receive a new nature? (Continued)
    - iii. By man doing good works?
      - Man does not even have the ability to do good works (see 3-D-iii-c) or make a sacrifice that is acceptable unto God (see 4-A-ii-c)
      - Man cannot be saved by works because his works are all corrupt, wicked, and evil
        - Eph. 2:8-9, Titus 3:5, 2 Tim. 1:9, Rom. 3:28, Job 25:4, Ps. 143:2
        - Job 9:20 – Man’s own mouth and sinful actions would contradict our claims of righteousness and any attempt to justify ourselves
    - iv. By another man or society doing good to him or showing him the right way?
      - Isaiah 26:10 – *“Let favour be shewed to the wicked, yet will he not learn righteousness: in the land of uprightness will he deal unjustly, and will not behold the majesty of the Lord.”*
        - Prov. 26:11, Prov. 27:22, Isaiah 1:5-6, Jer. 2:30, Jer. 5:3
5. God’s sovereign, over-powering grace is the only hope of salvation for the totally depraved sinner
  - A. God gives life to those that are dead in sins (compare to 4-A-i)
    - i. Eph. 2:1-5, Col. 2:13, Rom. 4:17, 2 Cor. 5:14, John 5:25, Rom. 5:6
    - ii. The life given by God to the dead sinner is not based on a condition met by man, but according to His own purpose and grace
      - John 5:21 – *“For as the Father raiseth the dead and gives them life, even so the Son of Man quickeneth whom he will.”*
      - Eph. 1:4-6, Titus 3:3-7, 2 Tim. 1:9
  - B. God gives a new nature to those that are corrupt in the flesh (compare to 4-A-ii)
    - i. 2 Cor. 5:17 – *“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new”*
      - Gal. 6:15, Eph. 4:24, Col. 3:10
    - ii. Ezek. 36:26 – *“A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh.”*
      - Ezek. 11:19, 2 Cor. 3:3
  - C. God gives His children ability to believe, obey, and serve Him by the imparting of the Holy Spirit in the new birth (compare to 4-A-iii)
    - i. Ezek. 36:27 – *“And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments and do them.”*
      - Ezek. 11:20, 2 Cor. 3:6
    - ii. 1 John 5:1 – *“Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God.”*
      - John 1:12-13, 5:24, 8:47, 10:25-26; 1 Cor. 12:3; 1 John 4:2,6,15