

Sovereign Grace Series
Lesson #7 – Man’s “Total Depravity” (2006)
The “T” of T U L I P

Amplifying Attachments for Lesson #7

<u>File #</u>	<u>Title</u>
1382	Total Depravity by CARM
1401	Total Depravity – is it Biblical From “Got Questions”

Applicable Sections of These Confessions:

LBC of 1689 Ch 5, Item 6; Ch 6, Item 2, 3, 4, 5; Ch 7, Item 2;
Ch 9, Item 3; Ch 13, Item 2; Ch 15, Item 2, 3, 4;
Ch 16, Item 7; Ch 17, Item 3
AoP of 1858 Items VI., VIII, & XIII.

I. The Problem With Man’s Worldview

Satan’s Big Lie to Lost Men Satan is a liar and the father of lie’s. He is a deceiver. His purpose is to inoculate mankind against the power of the gospel. We (the church) dare not in any ways assist Satan in his lies! One of his principal big lies is the “humanist worldview” that appeals to mankind’s natural inclination, to believe that mankind is religious and basically good.

II. Historical Background: History of Humanism with Ancient Greek Belief Systems

A. Ancient Greece: “Although the term "humanism" was not applied to a philosophy or belief system until the European Renaissance, those early humanists were inspired by the ideas and attitudes which they discovered in forgotten manuscripts from ancient Greece. This Greek humanism can be identified by a number of shared characteristics: **it was materialistic** in that it sought explanations for events in the natural world, it valued free inquiry in that it wanted to open up new possibilities for speculation, and it valued humanity in that **it placed human beings at the center of moral and social concerns**. Perhaps the earliest person we might be able to call a "humanist" in some sense would be **Protagoras, a Greek philosopher and teacher who lived around the 5th century BCE**. Protagoras exhibited two important features which remain central to humanism even today. First, he appears to have made humanity the starting point for values and consideration when he created his now-famous statement ‘Man is the measure of all things.’ In other words, it is not to the gods that we should look when establishing standards, but instead to ourselves. - - - ” By Austin Cline
from [History of Humanism With Ancient Greek Philosophers \(learnreligions.com\)](http://www.learnreligions.com/history-of-humanism-with-ancient-greek-philosophers)

B. Renaissance/Reformation: Erasmus’s humanism as discussed in Luther’s *Bondage of the Will* was the beginning of Christianity’s downgrade into theological Liberalism where doctrine was not of much consequence, but the Christian’s ethics and morality were of supreme importance. The whole of the Renaissance movement was a reawakening of humanism as the dominant idea, namely that “Man is the measure of all things.”

C. Modern Humanism: “Starting in the 20th century, humanist movements have typically been non-religious and aligned with secularism. Most frequently, humanism refers to **a nontheistic view centered on human agency**, and a reliance on science and reason rather than revelation from a supernatural source to understand the world. Humanists tend to advocate for human rights, free speech, progressive policies, and democracy. Those with a humanist worldview maintain religion is not a precondition of morality, and object to excessive religious entanglement with education and the state. Humans, according to humanists, can shape their own values, and live good and meaningful lives.” from **Humanism - Wikipedia**

III. Definition of Total Depravity: This is the initiating condition from which men must be saved and from which they must acknowledge God’s sovereign solution to their dilemma of being lost and without hope.

A. Saying that all men and women are totally depraved does not mean that man is:

1. As wicked as he possibly could be, (Not a Degree of depravity),

But rather it means:

2. All aspects of man are against the God of Scripture. (Scope of depravity)

B. Some Key Points Regarding the Doctrine of Total Depravity:

1. Men without Christ are sinners and rebels by their very nature. (They are born as sinners in rebellion!)
2. They are not sinners because they sin, but rather they sin because they are born sinners.
3. Men are in open rebellion against their Maker. They hate the God Scripture.
(They are naturally religious and often love a god of their own imagination and making)
4. They are blind and dead to the God of Scripture.
(They are not dead to worshipping gods of their own imaginations.)
5. Men have no ability to please God or to have fellowship with Him. (lacking spiritual capacity)

6. Men by their very nature never seek God. They cannot seek God because of their nature. (God seeks men. He is the initiator and author of salvation.)

NOTE: Some might say that this should be referred to as man's "Total Inability" rather than as man's "Total Depravity". That is a fair description!

- C. "Grace is a provision for men who are so fallen that they cannot lift the axe of justice, so corrupt that they cannot change their own natures, so averse to God that they cannot turn to Him, so blind that they cannot see Him, so deaf that they cannot hear Him, and so dead that He Himself must open their graves and lift them into resurrection."
G. S. Bishop; *The Attributes of God* by A. W. Pink; p. 90

IV. Scriptural Basis of Man's Total Depravity – The opposite view from "Humanism"!

Reference	Scripture (NASU)	Key Point Addressed
Job 14:1-3	<i>Man, who is born of woman, is short-lived and full of turmoil. Like a flower he comes forth and withers. He also flees like a shadow and does not remain. You also open Your eyes on him and bring him into judgment with Yourself.</i>	Inability Rebellion
Ps 51:5	<i>Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me.</i>	Universal
Ps 130:3	<i>If You, LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?</i>	Universal
Ps 143:2	<i>And do not enter into judgment with Your servant, for in Your sight no man living is righteous.</i>	Universal Rebellion
Prov 14:12	<i>There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.</i>	Inability
Prov 20:9	<i>Who can say, "I have cleansed my heart, I am pure from my sin"?</i> This is a rhetorical question! No One Can!	Universal
Ecl 7:20	<i>Indeed, there is not a righteous man on earth who continually does good and who never sins.</i>	Universal
Ecl 9:3	<i>This is an evil in all that is done under the sun, that there is one fate for all men. Furthermore, the hearts of the sons of men are full of evil and insanity is in their hearts throughout their lives. Afterwards they go to the dead.</i>	Universal Rebellion
Is 44:18	<i>They do not know, nor do they understand, for He has smeared over their eyes so that they cannot see and their hearts so that they cannot comprehend.</i>	Inability-Blind
Is 53:6	<i>All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him. (Christ)</i>	Universal
Is 64:6-7	<i>For all of us have become like one who is unclean and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment; and all of us wither like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind take us away. There is no one who calls on Your name, who arouses himself to take hold of You; for You have hidden Your face from us and have delivered us into the power of our iniquities.</i>	Universal Scope
Jer 17:9	<i>The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it?</i>	Scope
Jer 51:17	<i>All mankind is stupid, devoid of knowledge; - -</i>	Universal
Jn 6:44	<i>No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.</i>	Inability
Jn 6:65-66	<i>For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father." As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore.</i>	Inability
John 3:3	<i>Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.</i>	Inability
John 3:19-	<i>This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the</i>	Universal

20	<i>darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.</i>	
John 6:65-66 & 70	<i>And He was saying, "For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father." As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking together with Him anymore. - - Jesus answered them, "Did I Myself not choose you, the twelve, and yet one of you is a devil?"</i>	Inability
Rom 1:18-3:20 here is the conclusion to this condemning passage: Rom 3:9-18	<i>⁹What then? Are we better than they? Not at all; for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin; ¹⁰as it is written, THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE; ¹¹THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD; ¹²ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE.^{Ps 14:1-3} ¹³THEIR THROAT IS AN OPEN GRAVE, WITH THEIR TONGUES THEY KEEP DECEIVING,^{Ps 5:9} THE POISON OF ASPS IS UNDER THEIR LIPS;^{Ps 140:3} ¹⁴WHOSE MOUTH IS FULL OF CURSING AND BITTERNESS;^{Ps 10:7} ¹⁵THEIR FEET ARE SWIFT TO SHED BLOOD, ¹⁶DESTRUCTION AND MISERY ARE THEIR PATHS, ¹⁷AND THE PATH OF PEACE THEY HAVE NOT KNOWN. ^{Isa 59:7} ¹⁸THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES.^{Ps 36:1b}</i>	Universal Inability Scope
Rom 5:12 see 5:12-21	<i>Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned - - -</i>	Universal
Rom 8:6-8	<i>⁶For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, ⁷because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.</i>	Inability Rebellion
1 Cor 1:18-19	<i>For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, I WILL DESTROY THE WISDOM OF THE WISE, AND THE CLEVERNESS OF THE CLEVER I WILL SET ASIDE.^{Is 29:14}</i>	Inability-Blind
1 Cor 2:14	<i>But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.</i>	Inability-Blind
Gal 3:22-23	<i>But the <u>Scripture has shut up everyone under sin</u>, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to <u>the faith which was later revealed</u>.</i>	Universal Inability
Gal 4:8-9	<i>However at that time, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those which by nature are no gods. But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how is it that you turn back again to the weak and worthless elemental things, to which you desire to be enslaved all over again?</i>	Inability
Eph 2:1-3	<i>And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.</i>	Universal Captive
Eph 4:17-19	<i>So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; and they having become callous have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.</i>	Inability-Blind Rebellion

Col 1:21-22	<i>And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds, yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach -</i>	Rebellion
Col 2:13	<i>When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven all our transgressions,</i>	Inability-Dead
2 Tim 2:24-26	<i>The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, <u>if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, that they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, <u>having been held captive by him to do his will.</u></u></i>	Inability
Titus 1:15	<i>To the pure, all things are pure; but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled. They profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed.</i>	Inability
1 Jn 1:8-10	<i>If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.</i>	Universal

Turn to **Romans 1:18-32**; an excellent exposition of the whole of man's "**Total Depravity**".

Some Relevant Quotes

"Flat denial of total depravity has been a staple of America's religious culture for well over a century. It is at the heart of both modernism and theological liberalism, which de-emphasized theology and exalted philanthropic deeds. Churches that went that way wanted the fruit but severed the root, so they withered and died. Witness the condition of mainline denominations that embraced modernist thinking. All of them are spiritual wastelands today."

John MacArthur; *Proclaiming a Cross-Centered Theology*; p. 95

"Natural man cannot have a principle of the beauty and the amiableness of holiness simply because he has no idea of its existence. The natural man cannot see because "he has not the ideas in the mind," that is, any awareness of the beauty and loveliness of God. The disclosure of the moral beauties of God is a matter of a "divine and supernatural light" revealed in the innermost recesses of the soul. It enraptures, ravishes with desire, and floods the soul with true delight. The lost individual is not in this desperate condition because he/she is without sufficient faculties of reason and will. No, it is because, in the state of adversity to God and His beauty, he/she responds with vileness and contempt. Humanity is without true mental awareness of the true God. People do not have a knowledge of God as He truly is, so they simply cannot embrace what, to them at least, is nonexistent!"

John D. Hannah; from *The Coming Evangelical Crisis*; p. 160

"Sinners are not represented in Scripture as neutrally awaiting a chance to put themselves in the right, but as determinedly and deliberately in headlong retreat from God and His holiness. Sinners work hard for their wages, and those wages are richly deserved: the Bible says that "the wages of sin is death" (Rom 6:23)."

R. K. McGregor Wright; from *No Place for Sovereignty*; p. 95

"Without sin, God's existence would be overwhelmingly obvious to all. Nonbelievers fail to see that, from a biblical perspective, the hardness of their hearts (a spiritual and moral denseness) keeps them from believing God. Their unbelief is rooted in rebellion and arrogance, which essentially is false worship (1 Sam 15:22-23). Such evil produces idolatry and immorality. Though God has given powerful signs of His existence, the skeptic intentionally ignores and/or represses them (Psalm 14; 19; Rom 1). Nonrational human factors such as pride and a desire for autonomy often stand in the way of belief in God. Mere rejection of god does not prove that His existence is somehow insufficiently revealed."

Kenneth Samples; *Without a Doubt*; p. 39