

OKC PBC Article of Faith #4

4. We believe that the entire human family are dead in trespasses and sins by reason of the first transgression and are utterly unable to recover themselves from their fallen condition. {Gen 6:5; Gen 8:21; Ps 10:1-11; Ps 14:1-3; Jer 13:23; Jer 17:9; Rom 3:10-20; 1 Cor 2:14; Eph 2:1-3; Ps 39:5; 1 Cor 15:20-22; Col 2:13-14}

The Doctrine of Total Depravity

Webster's 1828 Dictionary

Depravity: 1. Corruption; a defiled state; as the depravity of manners and morals.
2. A defiled state of the heart; wickedness; corruption of moral principles; destitution of holiness or good principles.

The word, dead, can be defined as the absence of life and the opposite of life. The words, death and life, are diametrically opposed. In describing *the depravity of man* in his natural state (before he is born again) the scriptures use the words, dead and death, to mean the absence of spiritual life.

We believe God created Adam good, able to stand but liable to fall, and that Adam fell from this pure estate and brought himself and his posterity under condemnation and death, and that man, being utterly *depraved*, has no ability nor desire to deliver himself from this condition. We do not believe that God is or was the cause of this sin.

Because of the fall, man is unable of himself to savingly believe the gospel. The sinner is dead, blind, and deaf to the things of God; his heart is deceitful and desperately corrupt. His will is not free, it is in bondage to his evil nature, therefore, he will not---indeed he cannot---choose good over evil in the spiritual realm. Consequently, it takes much more than the Spirit's assistance to bring a sinner to Christ---it takes regeneration by which the Spirit makes the sinner alive and gives him a new nature. Faith is not something man contributes to salvation, but is itself a part of God's gift of salvation---it is God's gift to the sinner, not the sinner's gift to God."

(Writings of Brother Tom Hagler, Jr.)

Those who deny that there is an eternal hell either do not believe in the depravity of man, or else they do not believe in the justice of God. They do not believe man is as wicked as the Bible says he is; they do not believe that sin is so bad that it requires any real punishment. But as much as we Primitive Baptist preachers have emphasized *the doctrine of total depravity*, we have never painted the picture as black as it really is. Man is, by nature, depraved beyond his comprehension, and we do not have the capacity to see ourselves as we really are.

(Writings by Elder Harold Hunt)

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Scriptural References and proof supporting OKC PBC AOF #4

Genesis 6:5 (KJV) And GOD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every imagination of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually.

Genesis 8:21 (KJV) And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart *is* evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done.

Psalms 10:1-11 (KJV) ¹Why standest thou afar off, O LORD? *why* hidest thou *thyself* in times of trouble? ²The wicked in *his* pride doth persecute the poor: let them be taken in the devices that they have imagined. ³For the wicked boasteth of his heart's desire, and blesseth the covetous, *whom* the LORD abhorreth. ⁴The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek *after God*: *God is* not in all his thoughts. ⁵His ways are always grievous; thy judgments *are* far above out of his sight: *as for* all his enemies, he puffeth at them. ⁶He hath said in his heart, I shall not be moved: for *I shall never be* in adversity. ⁷His mouth is full of cursing and deceit and fraud: under his tongue *is* mischief and vanity. ⁸He sitteth in the lurking places of the villages: in the secret places doth he murder the innocent: his eyes are privily set against the poor. ⁹He lieth in wait secretly as a lion in his den: he lieth in wait to catch the poor: he doth catch the poor, when he draweth him into his net. ¹⁰He croucheth, *and* humbleth himself, that the poor may fall by his strong ones. ¹¹He hath said in his heart, God hath forgotten: he hideth his face; he will never see *it*.

Psalms 14:1-3 (KJV) ¹The fool hath said in his heart, *There is* no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, *there is* none that doeth good. ²The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, *and* seek God. ³They are all gone aside, they are *all* together become filthy: *there is* none that doeth good, no, not one.

Psalms 39:5 (KJV) Behold, thou hast made my days *as* an handbreadth; and mine age *is* as nothing before thee: verily every man at his best state *is* altogether vanity. Selah.

Psalms 51:5 (KJV) Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.

Psalms 58:3-5 (KJV) ³The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies. ⁴Their poison *is* like the poison of a serpent: *they are* like the deaf adder *that* stoppeth her ear; ⁵Which will not hearken to the voice of charmers, charming never so wisely.

Ecclesiastes 7:20 (KJV) For *there is* not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.

Jeremiah 13:23 (KJV) Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? *then* may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil.

Jeremiah 17:9 (KJV) The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

Romans 3:10-20 (KJV) ¹⁰ As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: ¹¹ There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. ¹² They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. ¹³ Their throat *is* an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps *is* under their lips: ¹⁴ Whose mouth *is* full of cursing and bitterness: ¹⁵ Their feet *are* swift to shed blood: ¹⁶ Destruction and misery *are* in their ways: ¹⁷ And the way of peace have they not known: ¹⁸ There is no fear of God before their eyes. ¹⁹ Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. ²⁰ Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.

Romans 3:23 (KJV) For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Romans 5:12 (KJV) Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

1 Corinthians 2:14 (KJV) But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

Ephesians 2:1-3 (KJV) ¹ And you *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses and sins; ² Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: ³ Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

1 Corinthians 15:20-22 (KJV) ²⁰ But now is Christ risen from the dead, *and* become the firstfruits of them that slept. ²¹ For since by man *came* death, by man *came* also the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

Colossians 2:13-14 (KJV) ¹³ And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; ¹⁴ Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;