


**Calvinism :**

**Total Hereditary Depravity**


- **T.U.L.I.P;** Calvin’s doctrinal system as it relates to the spiritual condition of man.
  - **T**otal Hereditary Depravity
  - U**nconditional Election
  - L**imited Atonement
  - I**rresistible Grace
  - P**erseverance of the Saints



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- **Definition of Total Hereditary Depravity**
  - *Total* – “Complete in degree; absolute, thorough.” (Webster)
  - *Hereditary* – “of or passed down by heredity; designating or of a characteristic transmitted from generation to generation.” (Webster)
  - *Depravity* – “corruption” (Webster) – “Inability” (Calvin attaches this idea to it)
    - “Total depravity; in theology, the doctrine that man’s nature is innately bad and perverse because of original sin.” (Webster)



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- Are We Born Sinners?
  - **“Original sin, therefore, appears to be a hereditary depravity and corruption of our nature, diffused through all the parts of the soul, rendering us obnoxious to the Divine wrath, and producing in us those works which the Scripture calls, ‘works of the flesh’”** (John Calvin, Institutes of the Christian Religion, Book 2 chapter 1)

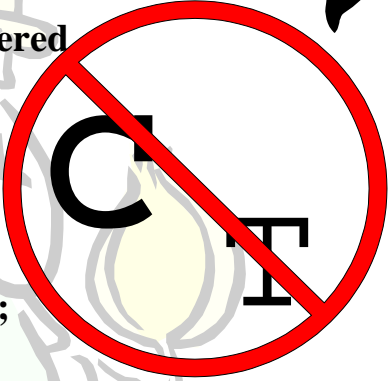


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- Are We Born Sinners?
  - **“By this sin (eating the forbidden fruit) they (our first parents) fell from their original righteousness and communion with God, and so became dead in sin, and wholly defiled in all the faculties and parts of soul and body. They being the root of all mankind, the guilt of this sin was imputed and the same death in sin and corrupted nature conveyed to all their posterity descending from them by ordinary generation. For this original corruption, whereby we are utterly indisposed, disabled, and made opposite to all good, and wholly inclined to all evil, do proceed all actual transgressions.”**  
(Presbyterian Confession of Faith, Chapter 6)


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- Hereditary Depravity Answered
- Matt. 18:1-5; 19:13-14;  
2 Sam. 12:15-23; Eccl 7:29
- Calvin's Proof texts?
- Gen. 6:5; Job. 14:4; 15:14-16;  
Psa. 51:5; 58:1-3; Jer. 13:23;  
17:9; Rom. 3:10-18; 5:12-19;  
Eph. 2:1-3




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- Calvin's Proof texts?
- Gen. 6:5
  - Man or baby under consideration here?
  - Does a baby think evil? Not just evil but evil continually?
  - Parents have seen many precious moments from their child.
  - We are told that proof of THD of a Baby is that they get angry the moment he/she is born.
  - If that be proof then God is TD since he has had moments in anger. (Ex. 32:10; Ps. 7:11)
  - One Calvinist said that his child waking him up in the middle of the night was evil and proof of TD!




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- Calvin's Proof texts?
- Job 14:4
  - Once again note the context. V1. Job has a very bleak look on life at this moment. So much the so that he wishes he was never born.
    - Job. 3:1-3; 9-13
  - So with that in mind he embarks upon a mission to find out why he has suffered so much. He is in a state of pain most of us cannot empathize with. He is filled with sores and boils (Job. 2:7-9).
  - And he thinks about the state of man and the sorrow in life; speaks in a depressed tone.




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**Calvin's Proof texts?**


- Job 14:4
  - Looking at mankind from a strictly physical/earthly standpoint:
    - man lives and dies in a matter of moments
    - who would God look at as one worthy of standing with him (v. 3)
    - how can one find something clean in that which is unclean.
  - Job never denied that there was sin in the world or that he ever sinned, but that he did not do anything worthy of the pain he was suffering.
  - But if we toss out the context and ascribe a literal meaning to this passage, would not the reverse be true too?
    - "Who can bring an unclean thing out of a clean thing?"
    - We were made after God; no cleaner a one ever existed. So how did an unclean thing come from a clean thing?




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- Calvin's Proof texts?
- Job 15:14-16
  - "Born of a woman"
  - Was Jesus not born of a woman? (Gal. 4:4)
  - Was Christ born depraved?
    - Lk. 3:38 says, he was a son of Adam. . .did he inherited sin too?
  - v15 – God puts no trust in his saints – 1 Tim. 1:11 “glorious gospel...that was committed to my trust”
  - And the heavens are not pure, are they really not pure?
  - v16 “How much less a infant...” is that what it says??? NO!



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- Calvin's Proof texts?
- Job 15:14-16
  - What is going on here? The Bible does not contradict. Remember the context of Job. Job is in pain, wishing to die, knowing that he has not done anything deserving of such punishment.
  - Job had 3 friends come to visit to help him sort thorough his thoughts on his affliction. Much of his friends words were not profitable to Job as they erred in what they said.
  - These words were spoken by Eliphaz (15:1) and in 16:1-3 he says that they are vain words, empty words.
  - Yet to the Calvinist they are filled with much comfort and truth!



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**Calvin's Proof texts?**


- **Psalms 51:5**
  - Poetic passage to relay David's feelings about his sin.
    - V4 – what about Uriah? He was killed!
  - If they want to take that literal then can I take Psalms 22:10 literal and say David was a believer before he was born?
  - But even if we take it literal, is it saying what the Calvinist wants it to say?
    - “born in iniquity.” “in sin my mother conceived me”
    - Jesus was born in a stable and laid in a manger, but he was not a colt or a bale of hay.
    - Just because he was born in something did not make him a product of that thing.
    - Ax. 2:8 – “born in a tongue” – where that language prevailed.




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**Calvin's Proof texts?**


- **Psalms 51:5**
  - “in sin my mother conceived me”?
  - How does this statement mean that we are born sinners?
    - How about, “In drunkenness my husband beat me.” Would you attribute the drunkenness to the wife or the husband?
    - How about, “in anger my father whipped me” Would you attribute the anger to the child or the father?
  - Thus if we are to take this in a literal fashion (which we should not) then do we attribute the sin to the baby or the mother?
  - Was David's killing Uriah and taking Bathsheeba *inherited* sin or *committed* sin?




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- Calvin's Proof texts?
- Psalms 58:3
  - Let us once again read the context. v.1-2
    - They work wickedness. Infants do not know how to work.
    - v6 – “Shall break their teeth!”
      - How many infants born with teeth?
    - v10 – righteous rejoice at infant damnation? Are we talking about infants here? Was this a prayer from David for the destruction of infants? No, but the unrighteous congregation and judges mentioned in v1
    - But even v3 if taken literal does not support Calvinism.
    - It says, “estranged from” not *IN* the womb as Calvin teaches.
    - It says, “go astray” not *born* astray!




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**Calvin's Proof texts?**


- Jer. 13:23
  - Now where does it say one is born a sinner?
  - *Accustomed* means taught (we are taught our customs) not born.
  - Read context. God is angry at his people and how they have left him. Thus he will be giving them over to the heathen nations. V10,11,17.
  - This was going to happen. V25 it was their lot. Thus just as an Ethiopian cannot change his skin or a leopard their spots they will go into captivity.
  - The Calvinists apply that to the sinner, but if that were the case did not God choose some poor illustrations?
  - Is the skin of the Ethiopian a sin? Or the spots of the leopard? Should they want to change? Are they held responsible for not changing it?




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- Calvin's Proof texts?
- **Jer. 17:9**
  - does it say we are born sinners?
  - what is the context?
  - V5 – The one who trusts in himself.
  - I have used it in context of one who does just that. When one says, "I just know it is ok with God (without a Bible passage) because I can feel it in my heart." You see how they are trusting in their own flesh? Your feelings can lead you astray if they are not founded in the Word of the Lord.
  - But Jeremiah's hope and prayer and trust was in the Lord.  
V14, 17. The heart is our responsibility, *Prov. 4:23*




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- Calvin's Proof texts?
- **Romans 3:10-18**
  - Note in your side margin. Where do most of these references come from? The book of Psalms.
    - interesting that most of the support Calvinists use for Hereditary Depravity come from a poetic book.
    - context. . .yet many Calvinists do not care to investigate the context
  - Once again where in this text does it say:
    - we are born sinners?
    - That Adam's sin was given to all mankind and will always be given.




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- Calvin's Proof texts?
- **Romans 3:10-18**
  - we have all sinned; it is stated in v23! But are we born that way or did we choose that way by our own free will?
  - a careful acknowledgement of the terms will show us that Paul is talking about accountable adults, not infants.
    - “tongues practice deceit”, “mouth full of cursing”, “feet swift to shed blood”, “destruction are in their ways”
    - not infants corrupted at birth but folks that have corrupted themselves by wicked works.
    - Paul was illustrating to the Jews that we are no better than the Gentiles for we have sinned too (v9, 29).
    - We have all sinned and thus are in need of a savior (v24) both Jew and Gentile.




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- Calvin's Proof texts?
- **Rom. 5:12-19**
  - finally a passage that talks about Adam and the fall
    - v12 – Spiritual death spread to all, but why? Because Adam sinned and we are born sinners. Or is it as the text says. “because ALL sinned?”
    - Now this is important to understand the rest of the text. V15, 18.
    - Now note if the text means that all have spiritually died because of Adam's sin, then logically it means that all are spiritually alive because of Christ's sacrifice!




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- Calvin's Proof texts?
- Rom. 5:12-19
  - If Christ dying for all doesn't equate that all are saved, then likewise, Adam's sinned does not make all sinners.
  - So what does it mean? Remember v12 – Spiritual death did spread to all, but because we sinned, not Adam.
  - So if Spiritual death, which originated with Adam, has come, then Spiritual life has come, which originated with Christ.
    - And all that choose to can partake of such spiritual life.
    - Paul also shows that they all became a part of the saved by obeying the gospel in baptism -Rom. 6:3-4




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Calvin's Proof texts?

- Eph. 2:1-3
  - where does it say we were born sinners?
  - where does the text infer that we inherited Adam's sin?
    - v1 even says "trespasses and sins" not original sin.
    - v2 says they walked in them not were born in them!
    - v3 – *nature* is from the Greek word *fusei* which means habitual practice.
  - if we want to say that nature means born that way, then let the Calvinist digest Rom. 2:14, "for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves"
    - I thought our nature led us wholly and completely away from all good?



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- Does man, born of Adam, have the ability to obey God?
  - “Man, by his fall into sin, hath wholly lost all ability of will to any spiritual good accompanying salvation...is not able by his own strength, to convert himself or to prepare himself thereunto.” (Presb. Conf. of Faith, Chapter 9, sec. 3)
- What saith the Scriptures?
  - **Matt. 7:7-8; 23:38; Jn. 7:17; Rev. 22:17**
  - “Whosoever will”, “he who wills”, “For everyone who asks”



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- **The Clincher**
  - **Ezekiel 18:1-4, 14, 17-18, 19-32**
  - **“The son shall not bear the guilt of the father”**
  - **“The soul that sins it shall die”**
  - **A wicked man may turn from his wickedness and be forgiven.**

