

THE CORRUPTION OF MAN AND THE MANNER OF HIS CONVERSION

"HAVING AN ANSWER" - ISSUE 4

3RD AND 4TH ARTICLE AGAINST THE REMONSTRANTS



An Explanation of Total Depravity and Irresistible Grace



"HAVING THEIR UNDERSTANDING DARKENED, BEING ALIENATED FROM THE LIFE OF GOD..."

ARTICLE 1 - THE EFFECT OF THE FALL

"In the beginning man was created in the image of God. He was adorned in his mind with true and wholesome knowledge of his Creator and of all spiritual things; his will and heart were upright, all his affections pure, and therefore man was completely holy. But rebelling against God through the instigation of the devil and through his own free will, he deprived himself of these excellent gifts, and instead brought upon himself blindness, horrible darkness, futility, and perverseness of judgment in his mind; wickedness, rebelliousness, and stubbornness in his will and heart; and impurity in all his affections."

1. Before the fall, how perfect was man when he was created? Gen 1:26-27
2. How does the deception of the serpent in Genesis 3:4-7 demonstrate the appeal of sin today? Read Gen. 3:12. How is Adam's response similar to ours today?
3. Describe rebellion against God according to Ephesians 4:17-19:

ARTICLE 2 - THE SPREAD OF CORRUPTION

"Since after the fall man became corrupt, he as a corrupt father brought forth corrupt children. Thus the corruption has spread from Adam to all his descendants, with the exception of Christ alone, not by imitation, as the Pelagians of old maintained, but by the propagation of a perverted nature, according to the righteous judgment of God."

4. How does the Bible describe the corruption of man? Job 14:4; Ps. 51:5; Ro. 5:12
5. The Bible *does not teach* that man cannot do "nice" things or things that appear to be "right" according to a human standard (Prov. 12:15; 14:12; 21:2). What *does* the Bible teach concerning every "good" thing that man does? Heb. 11:6; Mk. 10:26-27; Is. 64:6

ARTICLE 3 - MAN'S TOTAL INABILITY

"Therefore all men are conceived in sin and are born as children of wrath, incapable of any saving good, inclined to evil, dead in sins, and slaves of sin. And without the grace of the regenerating Holy Spirit they neither will nor can return to God, reform their depraved nature, or prepare themselves for its reformation."

6. How is our nature described? Eph. 2:1-3; John 8:34; Ro. 6:16-17
7. Does God file down someone's depravity until they come to a point where they can choose or accept? John 3:3-6; 6:44; Titus 3:5

ARTICLE 4 - THE INADEQUACY OF THE LIGHT OF NATURE

"To be sure, there is left in man after the fall, some light of nature, whereby he retains some notions about God, about natural things, and about the difference between what is honorable and shameful, and shows some regard for virtue and outward order. But so far is he from arriving at the saving knowledge of God and true conversion through this light of nature that he does not even use it properly in natural and civil matters. Rather, whatever this light may be, man wholly pollutes it in various ways and suppresses it by his wickedness. In doing so, he renders himself without excuse before God."

8. Romans 1:18-22ff supports this article. Respond to the statement "it wouldn't be fair" if Christ didn't die for everyone.

THE CANONS OF DORT

- ◆ Although in form there are only four chapters, occasioned by the combination of the third and fourth sections into one, we properly speak of five Canons, and the third chapter is always designated as Chapter III/IV.

"THE DOCTRINE OF TOTAL DEPRAVITY COULD ALSO BE CALLED "TOTAL INABILITY" OR "RIGHTEOUS INCAPABILITY." NO MAN WILL EVER COME TO CHRIST OR SUBMIT TO GOD ON HIS OWN, BECAUSE HE IS SPIRITUALLY DEAD AND INCAPABLE OF SEEING HIS SPIRITUAL NEED TO DO SO."

VERSE OF THE WEEK

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us..."

-Titus 3:5