



Reformed Theology—Part 2
Total Depravity: Various Scriptures
From sermon 11.1.20

Read *Psalm 51:5 & Romans 3:10-11 & 23*

Review from Sunday's sermon: After Martin Luther launches the Reformation in 1517, the rediscovered theology based on Scripture spread quickly in Europe. Later in Luther's life, John Calvin comes on the scene as a Reformer, first in France, then in Geneva. He will be one of the greatest minds and theologians in Church history. From his writings and following the protest in the Netherlands, Reformed theology is presented in five points and put in an English acrostic "Tulip".

1. The "T" in tulip is for Total Depravity. What does it mean? All men are born spiritually dead in sin. Sin's corruption is to the core. There is no vestige or island of righteousness waiting to be awakened, reasoned with, or wooed into repentance, faith, and salvation. On his own, man is doomed.

1a. What does it NOT mean? Absolute Depravity = all men are as evil as they could be at all times. It does not mean that man is incapable of kindness, generosity, or noble causes. However, none of those things has any bearing on salvation [which is what Total Depravity addresses]

1b. What universal human reality proves the doctrine of Total Depravity? Everyone dies physically.
See *1 Corinthians 15:22*

2. What does it mean that man's will is in bondage? We have these sin-filled bodies and natures. We freely choose to sin because it is more desired and more attractive than obedience to God's Law. Our sin nature can never see the need for repentance, submission, and surrender to a Savior.
See *Romans 7:14-25, 1 Corinthians 2:14, & 2 Corinthians 4:3-4*

3. Who was Jacob Arminius and how did he influence Protestantism? Dutch theologian and professor from Reformation Age who taught against total depravity and unconditional election. After his death, his students would protest Reformed Theology in the Netherlands, using the 5-points of Arminianism.

4. What do we mean by the statement: "Man is not sick and in need of healing, but dead and in need of resurrection"? Our spiritual condition is already terminal. As attractive as someone may present the Gospel, we cannot respond because we are dead in sin. God must first make us "alive" and bestow saving faith, before we can exercise that saving faith in Christ.
See also *Ephesians 2:1-3*

5. How does "Regeneration precedes Faith" liberate the Church, the preaching, and the evangelist? Although, like Paul, we need to be in the culture and communicate with them, (See *1 Corinthians 9:19-22*), we do not have to compromise the Gospel message or that of sin, repentance, and judgment. We do not have to rely on or devise clever marketing or use emotion to win someone to Christ. Only the Holy Spirit can do that. All we have to do is present the Word of God as given.

5a. How can it possibly be abused? Various answers. This can make some dismiss the need for missions, evangelism (corporate and personal), and hospitality to the lost. It can even affect prayer.