

Lord's Day 3

6. Q. Did God, then, create man so wicked and perverse?

A. No, on the contrary, God created man good and in his image, that is, in true righteousness and holiness, so that he might rightly know God his Creator, heartily love him, and live with him in eternal blessedness to praise and glorify him.

7. Q. From where, then, did man's depraved nature come?

A. From the fall and disobedience of our first parents, Adam and Eve, in Paradise, for there our nature became so corrupt that we are all conceived and born in sin.

This might seem like an easy question to answer up front

- Many of us have read the Bible
- We know what happens in Genesis 3
- But picture a person who has never been to church
 - Who has never read a Bible
 - Who never sat through a sermon
- Think about what this person's concept of God is
- This helps to frame the question better
 - If God is so powerful – why is there so much evil?
 - If God is a God of love – why is there so much suffering?
- This led the French poet Charles Baudelaire to conclude:
 - “Is God playing his own Lucifer, or is Lucifer now God, given the Fall?”
 - Meaning – is God and the Devil the same person?
 - At first – we might jump back in shock when we hear this
 - But think it through:
 - Without having any true concept of God
 - Without understanding the history of humanity since creation
 - One could easily conclude that if God does exist He has to be evil
 - Look at the world around you
 - How could you assume otherwise?
 - How else could you explain the existence of evil if God is not evil?
 - Since God is the Creator of all things
 - He must be both good and evil
 - How else could they exist?

The fall of man in Genesis 3 is far more than just a story contained in the Bible

- It is historical
- It is true
- And it shows us that there is **a break in relationship** between humanity and God
- It shows us that God created all things perfect
 - We are the ones who brought sin and suffering to the world

- We are the ones to be blamed for this
 - Not God
- **Ecclesiastes 7:29** – *See, this alone I found, that God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes*

Recently, on a podcast, the question was asked as to “why God creates people gay”

- Sadly – the other person who claimed to be Christian did not respond correctly
- People think that if we are all God’s creation
 - Then God is the one who made things as they are
 - He is ultimately responsible for who we are
- The main objection is:
 - If God is against homosexuality – why does He create homosexual people?
 - Aren’t people simply living the way God created them to be?
 - If so – how can this be considered wrong?
- We would have to agree with this statement **If the fall was not a real historic event**
 - But because humanity rebelled
 - We broke our connection with God and have become slaves to sin
 - We no longer perfectly reflect the image of God as we were created to do
 - We have become enemies and haters of God
 - We have become slaves to our own hearts and desires
 - People who seek to live the way they want to
 - As opposed to the way God commands us to live
 - We are to be blamed for this problem
 - Our hearts are evil and corrupt
 - That is why we are the way we are
 - We choose to live a lifestyle of rebellion and unbelief
 - We choose to follow the sin that has entered into our hearts by our own doing
 - It is not God’s fault –
 - **James 1:13-15** – ¹³ *Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. ¹⁴ But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. ¹⁵ Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death*
- To believe it is ok to be the way you are because God made me this way:
 - Is false thinking
 - We are the way we are because of the evil within us
 - We do what we do because we want what we want
 - God does not make us gay
 - The homosexual desires come from the sin within us
 - We then choose to act upon them
 - God did not put them there
 - God did not create a person to be homosexual

8. Q. But are we so corrupt that we are completely unable to do any good and inclined to all evil?

A. Yes, unless we are regenerated by the Spirit of God.

A lot of confusion exists over the definition of the word “good”

- The only actions that please God are the actions that are done for His glory
- No action can be done for God’s glory unless it is done out of faith
- **2 Thessalonians 3:2** – tells us that not everyone has faith
- **Hebrews 11:6** – without faith it is impossible to please God
- **Romans 8:8** – those who are in the flesh (those without saving faith) cannot please God
- Sin has corrupted every aspect of our nature
 - Some people are more corrupt than others
 - There are levels to how sinful a person’s heart can be
 - But regardless of the level a person is at:
 - Everyone’s heart is corrupt from birth
 - Everyone from birth lacks saving faith
 - Which is why a person must be born again
 - Example: If I cut a chain in half – it is a broken chain
 - If I smash the chain up into 1,000 pieces it is still a broken chain
 - Whether it be cut in half, or cut up into many pieces, the chain is still broken and it can no longer function as it was intended
 - I need a new chain

Someone may ask – “isn’t helping a person across the street / giving to charity...” good works?

- Yes, they are
 - Commonly referred to as “relative good”
 - This still exists within a person’s heart
 - We still bear the image of God even though it has been corrupted by sin
 - Human beings till know right from wrong
- The unregenerate person can **only** do “relative good”
 - They can follow some of the Ten Commandments up to a certain point
 - But their works are not pleasing to God because the unsaved person lacks faith
 - Works that are pleasing to God must be done in faith
 - They must be done out of a heart of worship and reverence for God