

The Doctrines of Grace

Doctrine 2- The Radical Ruination of Man

Part B/Lesson 2 of 4

Man after the Fall- Spiritual Death

Genesis 2:16&17

16 The LORD God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely;

17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die."

Romans 5:12-20

12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned —

13 for until the Law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law.

14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the offense of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.

15 But the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many.

16 The gift is not like *that which came* through the one who sinned; for on the one hand the judgment arose from one transgression resulting in condemnation, but on the other hand the free gift *arose* from many transgressions resulting in justification.

17 For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

18 So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men.

19 For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.

1Corinthians 15:22a

For as in Adam all die...

Ephesians 2:1-3

1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,

2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.

3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

Death: the end of life; the total and permanent cessation of all the vital functions of an organism; the absence of life.¹

Death: death is not simply a *physical* problem- but also a *spiritual* problem. In the beginning, God breathed into Adam's nostrils and Man became a "living soul" (**Genesis 2:7**). Because of Adam's sin- that *spiritual* "life" was *immediately* ended, and the *physical* life also began to decay and eventually die. Scripture teaches that from the very moment of Adam's transgression- all of Mankind is now *spiritually* "dead".²

The term, "spiritual death" is a phrase that is used by theologians to describe what the Scriptures teach about Mankind's moral ruination as a result of The Fall. According to the Holy Bible- God's Divine Justice against Adam's sin did not only affect Adam- but reached out to *all* of those who came forth from him.³

Spiritual Death is Total

When the Christian Church teaches that the Spiritual Death of Fallen Man is "Total" we do *not* mean that everybody is as bad as they *could* be. No, the manifestation of the "deadness" of Man's soul differs from one person to the next. While we are ruined from making ourselves "good"- we can always be worse than we are.

What we *do* mean by using the word "Total" to describe Fallen Man's Spiritual Death is that every area of the nature and the being of Adam (and all those who came after him) is now utterly "dead" to both the "Person" and the "Will" of God. Adam's loving fellowship with God is completely broken, and he is alienated from the Life of God, and as a "dead man" Adam is now both *unable* and *unwilling* to love or serve God. As a result of Adam's Sin- all of the characteristics and qualities that God had Sovereignly infused into Adam at his creation- that he enjoyed and possessed and used- have now been *radically* and *negatively* ruined. All of them- including:

- his will
- his desires
- his loves
- his longings
- his plans
- his thoughts
- his joy
- his actions

¹ Dictionary.com

² *The Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*; edited by Walter Elwell; 1984-2001; Baker Books (Grand Rapids, MI) page 325.

³ The Doctrine of Original Sin

- every area of Man's existence is now *completely* fallen, *completely* sinful, and completely dead. Fallen Man has no spiritual life.

No area of Man's "being" remained unaffected by The Fall, and there now exists within Man the complete absence of any "good", "righteousness", or "purity". Fallen Man is now "all evil"- all the time.

Genesis 6:5

Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

And this spiritual "deadness" in Man is "total" in five main expressions:

1. Spiritual Death is *Total* in that it Affects Every Human
2. Our Rebellion and Hardness Against God is *Total*
3. In His Fallen Condition- *Everything* that Man Does is Sin
4. Man's *Inability* to Submit to God and Do "Good" is *Total*
5. Our Rebellion is *Totally* Deserving of Eternal Damnation

1. Spiritual Death is Total in that it Affects Every Human

1Kings 8:46b

... there is no man who does not sin...

Psalms 143:2

**And do not enter into judgment with Your servant,
For in Your sight no man living is righteous.**

Romans 3:23

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

1John 1:8&10

8 If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.

10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.

2. Our Rebellion and Hardness Against God is Total (Absolute/Complete)

Romans 3:9-18

9 What then? Are we better than they? Not at all; for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin;

10 as it is written,

"THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE;

**11 THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS,
THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD;**

12 ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS;

***THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD,
THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE."***

**13 *"THEIR THROAT IS AN OPEN GRAVE,
WITH THEIR TONGUES THEY KEEP DECEIVING,"
"THE POISON OF ASPES 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 PATHS,*

17 *AND THE PATH OF PEACE THEY HAVE NOT KNOWN."*

18 *"THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES."*

John 3:19-21

19 *"This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil.*

20 *"For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.*

21 *"But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God."*

Apart from the Sovereign Grace of God- Fallen Man has no delight in the Holiness of God and possesses no glad submission to the Sovereign Authority of God.

3. In His Fallen Condition- Everything that Man Does is Sin

Romans 7:18

For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good *is* not.

Romans 14:23b

... whatever is not from faith is sin.

Hebrews 11:6-7

And without faith it is impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and *that* He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

4. Man's Inability to Submit to God and Do "Good" is Total

John 3:5-7

5 Jesus answered, *"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.*

6 *"That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.*

7 *"Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'*

Romans 6:17&18

17 But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed,
18 and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

Romans 8:5-9

5 For those who are according to the flesh (lost people) set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit (saved people), the things of the Spirit.
6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace,
7 because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so,
8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.
9 However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.

Ephesians 2:1-5

2 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,
2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.
3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.
4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,
5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

5. Our Rebellion is Totally Deserving of Eternal Damnation**Ezekiel 7:3-4**

Now the end is upon you, and I will send My anger against you; I will judge you according to your ways and bring all your abominations upon you.

Romans 1:32

and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.

Ephesians 2:3

Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

And just as a physically dead man is utterly unresponsive to any natural stimuli- so too- the spiritually dead Man is now *absolutely unable* to respond to God or the things of God. So *spiritually* speaking- Man is stone, cold, dead.

And so ultimately- Man's greatest need is not money, power, education, opportunity, earthly possessions, love, companionship, or even family- but what Man lacks the most, and what Man needs the most is- life. Until Man can live again- until he can be spiritually reborn- nothing else will happen.

John 1:12&13

12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even to those who believe in His name,*

13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

John 3:3-8

3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

4 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?"

5 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

6 "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

7 "Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'

And the irony is that the very thing which Man is so utterly lacking, and what Man needs the most is the very thing that Man *cannot* provide for himself. Dead people *cannot* provide Spiritual Life for themselves. Dead people cannot even have the capacity to know that they *need* Life- much less actually provide that Life.

Therefore any Spiritual Life, any Spiritual Stimuli, any Spiritual Action which will provide or initiate or produce the needed Life for a spiritually dead man must come *externally*- from *outside* the one who is dead- precisely because- by definition- within the dead- there is no Life.

So, theologically or spiritually speaking- unless and until God Sovereignly and Graciously and Mercifully initiates, provides, and produces new Life inside the dead fallen and sinful Man- *no one* will ever:

- ✓ Have the cognizant knowledge that he is spiritually dead
- ✓ Awaken to his *need* for new Life
- ✓ Believe that the new Life is found in Jesus
- ✓ Voluntarily seek or desire or choose to obtain that Life

Dead people cannot know anything, they cannot desire anything, and they cannot initiate any action or choice whatsoever. So a very important part of understanding the radical and negative impact that The Fall had on Mankind from a Biblical standpoint is to first know that The Fall caused Man to be spiritually dead.

- Not spiritually *sick*- but spiritually dead
- Not merely *impaired*- but dead
- Not simply *hindered*- but dead
- Not just *uninformed*- but dead
- Not only *separated*- but dead
- Not just *sinful* and *evil*- but dead

“Spiritual death” means that Man no longer has any “Spiritual Life” in him. As a result of The Fall- Man no longer has the ability or the attributes of someone who is spiritually “alive”. Therefore, he *will not* love and serve God because he has no *ability* to do so.

Ephesians 2:1

And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,

So the dilemma with true Biblical Salvation is that unless and until Man repents, believes the Gospel, and trusts in the finished Work of Jesus Christ- he cannot receive Spiritual Life and be saved. But if Man is now spiritually dead- how does he do that? How do dead people hear the Gospel? How do dead people believe the Gospel to be true? How can a dead Man choose to repent? How do dead people voluntarily choose to exercise their will and trust in the finished Work of Jesus Christ? Dead people are both *unable* and *unwilling* to do *anything*.

So now we can see that Salvation is much more profound than a simple “choice” made voluntarily by fallen Man. Because of the deadness of his mind and heart and soul- lost and unsaved and fallen Man is unable and unwilling to ever make such a choice. So for anyone in this spiritual condition- Salvation is a gracious and Sovereign Act of God.

If Man is as fallen as the Bible teaches that he is- then absent that Sovereign and Gracious Act of God to powerfully and supernaturally overcome the inherent deadness of Man’s soul- nobody would ever hear and understand the Gospel, nobody would ever believe the Gospel, nobody would ever be convicted of sin, nobody would repent, nobody would ever trust in the finished Work of Christ, and nobody would be saved.

So we can see that being Fallen is much more profound than that Mankind now engages in sin. But being Fallen is a “state of being” in which all of Mankind now possess no Spiritual Life.

Spiritual Death is Universal

Ephesians 4:17-20

17 So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind,

18 being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart;

19 and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.

This verse teaches that the normal and natural condition of all Mankind since The Fall is that we are now:

- ✓ Mentally futile
- ✓ Darkened in our understanding
- ✓ Excluded from the life of God
- ✓ Ignorant
- ✓ Hard Hearted
- ✓ Callous
- ✓ Sensual
- ✓ Impure
- ✓ Greedy

Let's examine this passage closely:

Ephesians 4:17&18a

17 So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind,

18 being darkened in their understanding...

Notice first that this passage addresses “**Gentiles**” which under the Old Covenant referred to non- Jews. But as the completed Revelation of God came through the New Testament- the term “**Gentiles**” took on a more spiritual connotation to describe “unbelievers” or those who are outside the Covenant of God. In other words, it was used to describe lost and unsaved people. So this passage refers to the lost and unsaved people of the world- both Jews and Gentiles.

The Apostle Paul teaches here that while the mind of spiritually dead people may be able to accomplish great things in Science, Architecture, Medicine, etc.- nevertheless- the fallen mind is “**futile**” and the understanding of lost people is “**darkened**”. So lost and unsaved people are categorically devoid of Truth and their minds are filled with many sinful lusts, vanities, false beliefs, and contradictions.

And when these fallen people desire to be “religious” or “spiritual” by and through their own fallen capabilities- outside of true Salvation through Jesus Christ- the end is always ridiculous and destructive; it *a/ways* brings forth false religions and cults and inane human philosophies, and these efforts *never* lead *anyone* to Truth and Salvation.

Ephesians 4:18b

... excluded from the life of God...

Before The Fall- Adam enjoyed perfect and unhindered fellowship with His Maker. Adam had a close and a loving relationship with God. After Adam chose sin over God and fell- God withdrew His Favor and not only expelled Man from the Garden- but expelled Man from God's Own Life giving Presence. This state of being whereby humans are *alienated* from the Life of God extends to every single human born after The Fall. Man is now *incapable* of obtaining Spiritual Life unless and until God Sovereignly and graciously rescues him.

Ephesians 4:18c

... because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart;

It is very important that we understand that the “**ignorance**” Paul teaches here that all fallen people have- is the result of the “**hardness of their heart**”. So this ignorance is *self-imposed*, and it is sustained by Man's willful and ongoing rebellion.

Fallen Man is now naturally and normally hostile to God and the things of God, and has no desire to know Him or His Will. This “**ignorance**” of Man is the result of fallen individuals *voluntarily* closing their minds and hearts and eyes and *refusing* to consider God- thus Man is fully complicit in this “**ignorance**”.

Ephesians 4:19

and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.

The result of unsaved people continuing to willfully refuse to see and obey God is that this spiritual death within them deepens and darkens even more every day until fallen Man becomes completely “**callous**” to all spiritual Truth; Virtue. Thus Man naturally falls even further into a *counterfeit* spirituality and a *false* salvation which involves “**sensuality**” (the manifestation of the five natural senses rather than the Spirit) which in turn works “**every kind of impurity with greediness**”.

In this dark and fallen state- no human would/could ever voluntarily turn to the Lord for Salvation unless and until God would Sovereignly intervene to rescue fallen Man.

All of Fallen Man's Accomplishments are Dead

So while lost people are capable of laughing and raising children and building bridges and experience human love and even producing humanly “noble” and “honorable” deeds- they cannot (in their dark and fallen condition) ever, in any capacity, desire or carry out a move toward God, or a search for Truth without the Sovereign Power of God the Holy Spirit enabling and empowering them.

The Revelation 3:1b

... I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.

Some lost and fallen people may have an outward *appearance* of spirituality, or even of being humble and God fearing- but the Scriptures declare that these people are inwardly "dark" and "fallen" and "spiritually dead" and are, in reality, motivated to be "religious" only by a love for "self", and not out of a genuine love for God. Their hearts are as hard as stone until God Sovereignly and graciously takes that stony heart out of them and gives them a new heart that is soft and able to be convicted by God's Spirit.

Ezekiel 11:19

And I will give them one heart, and put a new spirit within them. And I will take the heart of stone out of their flesh and give them a heart of flesh,

Hebrews 6:1

Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,

Hebrews 9:14

how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Some fallen people seek to mask their inward spiritual "deadness" by joining in with genuine believers.

Jude 12&13

12 These are the men who are hidden reefs in your love feasts when they feast with you without fear, caring for themselves; clouds without water, carried along by winds; autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead, uprooted;

13 wild waves of the sea, casting up their own shame like foam; wandering stars, for whom the black darkness has been reserved forever.

Now while it is true that Jude's main focus in this passage is on genuine heretics- this passage is useful in this discussion because genuine heretics are not saved, and thus the characteristics listed here are the same as all lost and unsaved people who may physically be in a church or who fellowship with true believers.

Spiritual Death is Generational

Nobody escapes this spiritual death. And this fallen condition or this dead state of being does not have to be *taught* to each succeeding generation- nobody purposely teaches their children to be evil- we don't have to- the Scriptures teach that this "fallen state of spiritual death" is *imputed* to every generation through the seed of the father. This is The Doctrine of Original Sin.

Psalms 51:5

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,

And in sin my mother conceived me.

Original Sin

Romans 5:12

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned —

Original Sin contains two main parts- both of them horrible:

- A. All human beings born after Adam have the very same rebellious, sinful, and fallen *nature* of Adam (**Ephesians 2:3**)
- B. All human beings are personally *guilty* of the Sin of Adam and are under the Curse and Damnation of God from the moment of conception by the imputation of Adam's sin. (**Romans 5:12**)

In **Romans 5:12**- the Apostle Paul not only teaches that through Adam's Sin (The Fall), sin entered into the world- but he also teaches that death (both physical and spiritual) also entered into the world by this one single act of Sin. The spiritual death was manifested immediately while the physical death gradually became a reality. Nevertheless- all human beings born after The Fall are born spiritually dead and every single one will die naturally as well. But toward the end of this verse- Paul makes an amazing statement when he says:

... death spread to all men, because all sinned

Notice that the verb "**sinned**" is in the past tense. So this "sinning" occurred at some point and time in the past. So we are left to try to answer the question: "*How have 'all men' sinned?*" And the only Biblical answer is: "**In Adam**"- in the Garden- when he fell. Thus both physical and spiritual death has passed unto all those born after The Fall- *because all are personally guilty of Adam's sin.*

And after all the arguments against this Truth die down- this Fact is really indisputable because manifestly everyone does die. And one could make the argument that people die only because they themselves commit personal sins and not because the guilt of Adam's sin is imputed to us all- until we acknowledge that babies die- who are manifestly unable to personally commit sin.

Even *unborn* babies die while still in their mother's womb- proving that while babies are indeed *helpless* (unable to repent and thus will automatically enter into Heaven)- they are not "innocent" of Original Sin. And the Scriptures teach that we do not die simply because we personally sin- but that we die "**in Adam**".

1Corinthians 15:22

For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.

So the statement by Paul in **Romans 5:12** remains uncontested:

... death spread to all men, because all sinned

Original Sin condemns the entire Human race- at the moment of conception- even *before* birth- and long before they are able to individually manifest their fallen condition by acting on their depraved nature and personally sin. Birth- not only by assigning Adam's fallen and sinful nature to all those born after him- but also by imputing both the sin and the guilt of that sin to us all.

For a very thorough examination of the Biblical Doctrine of Original Sin by Jonathan Edwards- please go to

http://www.mountainretreat.org.net/classics/jonathanedwards/original_sin.shtml

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.

Recap of Lesson 2

1. What is meant by the term, "Spiritual Death"? _____

2. In what ways is Spiritual Death "Total"? _____

3. Is it true that Radical Ruination means that everybody is as bad as they could be? _____

4. What does it mean? _____

5. What area of Man's existence was unaffected by The Fall? _____

6. What is the only solution to Spiritual Death? _____

7. What is the problem with Spiritually Dead people obtaining Spiritual Life? _____

8. What is meant by the phrase, "Spiritual Death is Universal"? _____

9. Explain **Ephesians 4:17-19** using the words of the verses _____

10. In what way are all of Fallen Man's Accomplishments "Dead"? _____

11. Who does all the work in **Ezekiel 11:19** and why? _____

12. How is it that Spiritual Deadness is "Generational"? _____

13. What are the two parts of Original Sin? _____

14. Explain **Romans 5:12** _____

15. How could Original Sin glorify God? _____

Bonus Question

Why do you think people reject Original Sin? _____

Super Bonus Question

If babies are guilty of Original Sin and they cannot repent- do they go to Heaven when they die? Be very specific and give Scriptural proof for your answer _____
