

Total Depravity (Inability) Verse List

<http://www.traviscarden.com/writing/total-depravity-verse-list/>

The doctrine of total depravity (or total inability) says that all men, as a consequence of the Fall, are born morally corrupt, enslaved to sin, and unable to please God or even of themselves to turn to Christ for salvation. Is it biblical?

Is man basically good or basically evil? <#>

Ecclesiastes 7:29

*"Behold, I have found only this, that God made men upright, **but** they have sought out many devices."*

Mark 10:18/Luke 18:19

*And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? **No one is good** except God alone."*

Romans 5:12,19

*through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because **all sinned**... through the one man's disobedience the many were made **sinner**s*

c.f. [Ecclesiastes 9:3](#)

All men? Are there any exceptions? <#>

Romans 3:23

*for **all have sinned** and fall short of the glory of God.*

Isaiah 53:6

***All of us** like sheep have gone astray, **each of us** has turned to his own way;*

Romans 3:9-12

*What then? Are we better than they? Not at all; for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin; as it is written, "There is **none** righteous, **not even one**; there is **none** who understands, there is **none** who seeks for God; **all** have turned aside, together they have become useless; there is **none** who does good, there is **not even one**."*

1 John 1:8,10

If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we say we have not sinned, we make [God] a liar and His word is not in us.

c.f. [1 Kings 8:46](#); [Psalm 53:1-3, 116:11, 130:3, 143:2](#); [Proverbs 20:9](#); [Ecclesiastes 7:20](#); [Jeremiah 2:29](#); [Micah 7:2-4](#), [Mark 10:18](#); [Luke 18:19](#); [James 3:2](#); etc., etc.

Are people good deep down? <#>

Mark 7:21-23

*"For **from within, out of the heart of men**, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness. All these evil things proceed **from within** and defile the man."*

Psalm 5:9

*There is nothing reliable in what they say; **their inward part is destruction itself**. Their throat is an open grave; they flatter with their tongue.*

Are men *totally* depraved? Is any faculty of the person yet uncorrupted? <#>

Heart/Thoughts (Deceitful) <#>

Jeremiah 17:9

*"The heart is **more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick**; who can understand it?"*

Ecclesiastes 9:3

*the hearts of the sons of men are **full of evil and insanity is in their hearts** throughout their lives. Afterwards they go to the dead.*

Genesis 6:5 & 8:21

*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... from youth**.*

Psalm 36:1-2

Transgression speaks to the ungodly within his heart; there is no fear of God before his eyes. For it flatters him in his own eyes concerning the discovery of his iniquity and the hatred of it.

Proverbs 28:26

He who trusts in his own heart is a fool

c.f. [Ecclesiastes 8:11](#); [Psalm 94:11](#); [Mark 7:21-23](#)

Mind/Understanding (Depraved)

Romans 1:28-31

*And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to **a depraved mind**, to do those things which are not proper, being... **without understanding***

Titus 1:15-16

*to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but **both their mind and their conscience are defiled***

Ephesians 4:17-18

*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**, 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;*

Jeremiah 10:7-8,14

*For among all the wise men of the nations and in all their kingdoms, there is none like You. But **they are altogether stupid and foolish. Every man is stupid, devoid of knowledge***

Will/Choosing (Enslaved)

John 8:34

*"Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the **slave of sin**."*

2 Timothy 2:25-26

*if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been **held captive by him to do his will**.*

Titus 3:3

*For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, **enslaved to various lusts and pleasures**, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another.*

Romans 6:6

*our old self was crucified with Him... so that we would no longer be **slaves to sin**. But thanks be to God that though you were **slaves of sin**, you became obedient... and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.*

Romans 6:20

*For when you were **slaves of sin**, you were free in regard to righteousness.*

Romans 7:14

*For we know that the Law is spiritual, but I am of flesh, **sold into bondage to sin**.*

c.f. [John 8:31-32,36](#); [Galatians 4:9](#); [2 Peter 2:19](#)

Affections/Desires (Perverted)

Romans 1:24-27

*Therefore **God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity**, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this reason **God gave them over to degrading passions**; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and **burned in their desire** toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.*

2 Timothy 3:2-4

*For men will be **lovers of self, lovers of money**, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, **haters of good**, treacherous, reckless, conceited, **lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God***

Proverbs 21:10

*The soul of the wicked **desires evil***

John 3:19

"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."

c.f. [Genesis 3:16](#); [Psalm 4:2, 140:8](#); [Proverbs 10:23](#); [2 Peter 2:13](#)

et al (Utter Ruin)

Titus 1:15-16

to those who are defiled and unbelieving, **nothing is pure**, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled

Romans 7:18

I know that **nothing good** dwells in me, that is, in my flesh

Isaiah 1:5-6

The whole head is sick and **the whole heart** is faint. From the sole of the foot even to the head **there is nothing sound** in it, only bruises, welts and raw wounds, not pressed out or bandaged, nor softened with oil.

Are they just misdirected? Do men "not know better?"

Romans 1:18

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who **suppress the truth** in unrighteousness.

Romans 1:21

For **even though they knew God** they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

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.

c.f. [Romans 2:14-15](#)

Can men still do good when they want to?

Matthew 7:18

"A good tree **cannot** produce bad fruit, **nor can** a bad tree produce good fruit."

Romans 8:7

the mind set on the flesh... does not subject itself to the law of God, for **it is not even able to do so**

Jeremiah 13:23

Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard his spots? Then you also can do good who are accustomed to doing evil.

Genesis 6:5 & 8:21

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... from youth.**

Titus 1:15-16

to those who are defiled and unbelieving, **nothing is pure**, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled. They profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him, being detestable and disobedient and **worthless for any good deed.**

c.f. [1 Samuel 24:13](#); [Job 14:4](#); [Matthew 12:34](#); [Romans 14:23](#)

Are men at least born pure? What about the "tabula rasa?"

Psalms 51:5

Behold, I was **brought forth** in iniquity, and in sin my mother **conceived** me.

Psalms 58:3

The wicked are estranged **from the womb**; those who speak lies go astray **from birth.**

c.f. [Proverbs 22:15](#); [Isaiah 48:8](#)

What is the natural disposition of man toward God?

John 3:20

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

Romans 8:7-8

*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, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*

Colossians 1:21

*you were formerly **alienated and hostile in mind**, engaged in evil deeds*

James 4:4

*You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is **hostility** toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an **enemy** of God.*

c.f. [Romans 1:28-30](#)

What is man's relationship to God? #

Psalms 58:3

*The wicked are **estranged** from the womb; those who speak lies go astray from birth.*

Ephesians 2:12-13

*remember that you were at that time **separate** from Christ, **excluded** from the commonwealth of Israel, and **strangers** to the covenants of promise, having no hope and **without God** in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were **far off** have been brought near by the blood of Christ.*

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.*

c.f. [Isaiah 59:2](#)

Can man then do anything to please God? #

Proverbs 15:9

*The **way** of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord*

Proverbs 15:8/21:27

*The **sacrifice** of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord*

Proverbs 28:9

*He who turns away his ear from listening to the law, even his **prayer** is an abomination.*

Isaiah 64:6

*For all of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our **righteous deeds** are like a filthy garment;*

Romans 8:7-8

*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**, and those who are in the flesh **cannot please God**.*

Hebrews 11:6

*And without faith it is **impossible to please [God]***

c.f. [Psalm 50:16](#); [Proverbs 21:4](#); [Isaiah 1:10-15](#); [Amos 5:21-24](#)

Are men at least seeking God? #

John 3:20

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

Isaiah 65:1

"I permitted Myself to be sought by those who did not ask for Me; I permitted Myself to be found by those who did not seek Me."

Isaiah 64:7

***There is no one who calls on Your name**, who arouses himself to take hold of You; for You have hidden Your face from us and have delivered us into the power of our iniquities.*

Romans 3:10-12

"there is none who seeks for God"

c.f. [Romans 10:20](#)

Can the natural man comprehend the gospel or come to saving knowledge of God on his own? #

1 Corinthians 2:14

*But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and **he cannot understand them**, because they are spiritually appraised.*

2 Corinthians 4:3-4

our gospel is veiled... to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

1 Corinthians 1:18,21-24

For the word of the cross is **foolishness** to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom **did not come to know God**, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, **to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness**

Matthew 11:27

"no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him."

c.f. [Psalm 119:18](#); [Proverbs 4:19](#); [Ephesians 4:17-19](#); [2 Corinthians 2:15-16](#); [2 Corinthians 4:3-4](#)

Can men of themselves accept God's gift of salvation? Do men choose God or come to Him on their own? #

John 3:27

John answered and said, "A man can receive nothing unless it has been given him from heaven."

John 14:16

"I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, **whom the world cannot receive**, because it does not see Him or know Him

John 1:12-13

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

John 6:44 & 64

"No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him;" And He was saying, "For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father."

Romans 9:16

So then **it does not depend on the man who wills** or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy.

Romans 11:35-36

Or who has first given to [the Lord] that it might be paid back to him again? **For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.**

1 Corinthians 1:30

But **by His doing** you are in Christ Jesus

Philippians 2:13

for it is God who is at work in you, **both to will and to work** for His good pleasure.

c.f. [Jonah 2:9](#); [Zephaniah 3:9](#); [John 15:16](#); [1 Corinthians 15:10](#); [Philippians 1:6](#); [James 1:18](#)

Who supplies faith/belief/repentance? #

Romans 12:3

God has allotted to each a measure of faith.

Acts 5:31

"He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to **grant repentance** to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.

Acts 11:18

When they heard this, they quieted down and glorified God, saying, "Well then, God has **granted** to the Gentiles also the repentance that leads to life."

Philippians 1:29

For to you it has been **granted** for Christ's sake... to believe in Him

Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace you have been saved through faith; **and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God**; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

2 Timothy 2:25

*The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, [etc.]... if perhaps God may **grant them repentance** leading to the knowledge of the truth*

1 Corinthians 12:3

no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit

2 Peter 1:3

*His divine power has **granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness**, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence*

John 3:6 & 6:63

*"That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit... It is the Spirit who gives life; **the flesh profits nothing**;"*

c.f. [John 5:44](#); [Ephesians 6:23](#); [1 Corinthians 4:7](#); [2 Peter 1:1](#)

Can men do anything to help themselves? #

Romans 5:6

*For while we were still **helpless**, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.*

Ephesians 2:5

*even when we were **dead in our transgressions**, [God] made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)*

c.f. [Psalm 49:7-9](#); [Jeremiah 2:22](#)

Who then can be saved?! #

Matthew 19:26

Jesus said to them, "With people this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

c.f. [Mark 10:27](#); [Luke 18:27](#)