

Canons of Dort–3&4Head: Article 1-3–The Effect and Extent of Man’s Sinfulness

Brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ: When evolution进化论 became popular there were many in the church who started to **manipulate the Scripture** so it would seem to fit in with the popular theory of the day. Tim Keller, a famous Presbyterian pastor of a large congregation in the US, is reported to have said on national television that Christianity is consistent with evolution. More recently, the self-esteem自尊 movement arose. This movement taught self-love. To fit in with popular culture, **many started to manipulate the Bible** to show 3 (not 2) types of love: Love God, love neighbor, and they add, love self!

This massaging or manipulation of Scripture is not new. One of the most common area of manipulating the Scripture is to show the degree of the sinfulness of man. So today you will hear the truth of God’s Words concerning the full extent of man’s sin. This might be unsettling to some, but truth is sometimes unsettling不安. Ultimately, the unsettling will lead to right actions. If you are having a heart attack the doctor must say so. If he says that you have an upset stomach, what good would that do to you? You need the truth so you can get help.

Our headings are:

The Effect of Sin

The Extent of Sin

Our goals are: **That you will develop a full sense of the effect and extent of your sins, that you will love your Savior more and that you will work to rescue those who are still trapped in sin.**

The Effect Sin

Article 1: The Effect of the Fall on Human Nature - Human beings were originally created in the image of God and were **furnished in their mind with a true and sound knowledge** of the Creator and things spiritual, in the human will and heart with righteousness, and in all the emotions with purity; indeed, the whole human being was holy. However, **rebelling against God at the devil’s instigation and by free will, they deprived themselves of these outstanding gifts.** Rather, in their place the humans brought upon themselves **blindness, terrible darkness, futility, and distortion of judgment in their mind; perversity, defiance, and hardness in the hearts and wills; and finally impurity in all the emotions**在内心与意志上变为邪恶、背叛、顽固、情感不洁

1. God made man very good. While the animals, plants, and minerals were good, after God made man, the world’s purpose was completed. So God described the completed creation as “very good.” God equipped man’s mind with truth. God made man with the ability to obey and live according to that truth. Man had no tendency (predisposed) to sin. Man was perfectly righteous in the **full extent of his being**. Man had everything he needed to do the job God had assigned to him. God blessed man with abundance. Then man, of **his own free will, rebelled against God, at the instigation唆使 of the Devil, and sinned against God.**

2. Arminians (Pentecostal types) have strong opposition to this teaching in 2 ways.

a. They believe that when God made man, that **human heart had the inclination** 倾向 **to sin** to some degree. They believe the test that God gave to Adam would have been useless without man having an inclination to sin –a small desire to disobey God.

b. They teach that God created **man with a neutral will** 意志中立.

3. What wrong with what Arminians teach in these 2 things?

a. If God created man with an inclination (slight desire) to sin it would mean that God made man sinful. After all, the Bible teaches that the desire to sin (hate, lust, covetousness) is already a sin in God's eyes.

Genesis 6:5 Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every **intent of the thoughts of his heart** was only evil continually.

b. If God created man with a neutral will, how could God call man “very good?” God created man with no appetite for sin. Man was positively holy and inclined to do good. There is no neutrality in man or God.

Genesis 1:31 And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.

If God created man with a neutral will, and therefore man is able to choose to serve Christ on his own free will, this denies the Scripture that the Holy Spirit must draw the sinner to the Savior. To say that man does not need to be drawn robs Christ of the work he does for the sinner and robs him of the glory that the sinner owes him.

John 6:44 "No one can come to Me **unless the Father who sent Me draws him**...

Having fallen from his state of perfection, man is actively fighting against God and has no interests in the things of God. He does not seek God but opposes him on every front. He does nothing for his salvation and can do nothing for his salvation. An old brother once rightly told a minister: "If I had to add even one sigh to my salvation, I would be forever lost." So man wasn't neutral before The Fall and man hasn't been neutral since then!

4. What exactly were the consequences of man's fall?

Man developed spiritual blindness and groped about in terrible darkness... How difficult it is for a blind man in a crazy world! Imagine how impossible for a blind to learn the truth.

Blindness led to futility -徒劳无功...man's life has no real真实 purpose or direction anymore without God. He no longer lives for God's glory. So suicide, for instance, becomes an option.

Blindness caused man's judgment to be distorted. He could not properly decipher between right and wrong. This is like Richard Dawkins saying recently that it is immoral if you don't kill a Down syndrome child. What distortion!

With a distorted view, man became perverse 反常...and embraced whatever pleased his flesh, like

a mother who believes it is okay to murder a baby because she is inconvenienced by the baby.

In order to continue in perverseness man became defiant反抗/hardhearted in his will. This is like Hitler pursuing the merciless slaughter of the Jews. He lost feeling.

Sin has taken over so much that even man's emotions are affected.

Jeremiah 17:9 "The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked;
Who can know it?

Sin affected man to his core. This is why this doctrine is **called radical depravity**. Radical, from "radix" means "root." Yes, **man is not sinful as he wants to be because God stops him**, yet he is sinful in every area of life.

5. According to the Arminian, the real consequence of The Fall is that man now struggles挣扎 a bit more to hold on to Christ. They don't see man has helpless and in need of Christ to make man alive and pull man to himself. They think man is literally "sick in sin" not "dead in sin." Because he is sick and not dead, he can call for help of his own free will.

Ephesians 2:1 -And you He made alive, who were **dead in trespasses** and sins,

The Extent of Sin

Article 2: The Spread of Corruption - Human beings brought forth children of the same nature as themselves after the fall. That is to say, being corrupt they brought forth corrupt children. The corruption spread, by **God's just judgment**, from Adam and Eve to all their descendants—except for Christ alone—not by way of imitation (as in former times the Pelagians would have it) but by way of the propagation of their perverted nature由于邪恶本性的传殖

1. Adam passed on sin to all his natural descendants. No one born in the normal way has ever been without sin. This is why Jesus was not born in the natural way.

2. This spreading of sin from parents to children was not simply by children imitating仿效 parents—though that is partly true. The spreading of sin starts at the time of conception. Children are sinful because they were sinful from their mother's womb.

Psalm 51:5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And **in sin my mother conceived me**. 看哪，我是在罪孽里生的，我母亲在罪中怀了我。

Job 14:4 Who can bring a clean **thing out of an unclean**? No one!

3. In fact, if you look at Leviticus 12, you will see that a mother who gave birth had to be purified. She had to be purified because she was the source of putting a sinner into God's creation.

Leviticus 12:2 "Speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'If a woman has conceived, and borne a male child, then she shall be unclean seven days; as in the days of her customary impurity像月经污秽的日子 she shall be unclean. 3 'And on the eighth day the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised. 4 'She shall then continue in the blood of her purification thirty-three days. She shall not touch any hallowed thing, nor come

into the sanctuary until the days of her purification are fulfilled. 5 'But if she bears a female child, then she shall be unclean two weeks, as in her customary impurity, and she shall continue in the blood of her purification sixty-six days.

BTW, was God unfair to require a longer purification period for a girl? Was this proof of Jewish anti-feminine policy? No and no. God demanded a longer time for the purification of the woman who gave birth to a girl as a reminder that it was the woman who first sinned in Eden.

4. This passing on of sin from parent to child was just. As the federal head 圣约元首, if Adam had passed the test in Eden, he would have been confirmed in righteousness and his children would have been confirmed in righteousness even before they were born. We were in Adam, like the Bible says Levi was in Abraham when he worshipped with Melchizedek in Hebrews 7:9-10. Let me illustrate: We might hear the PM say that Canada supports Ukraine against Russian aggression 侵略, yet we know that there might be some in Canada who might support Russia. Because the PM is our federal head, he speaks for us. This representative way was what God established. As the Creator, he had the right to do so. This is why believers don't worry about children dying in infancy 婴儿期. If God can condemn a child through his parents' failures, why could he not save a child through his parents' faith? After The Fall God demands did not change. Man simply lost the ability to do what God said. Muslims argue that God would be unfair if he demands man to do today what man is unable to do. But God did not make man sinful.

Article 3: Total Inability - Therefore, all people are conceived in sin and are born children of wrath 可怒之子, unfit for any saving good, inclined to evil, dead in their sins, and slaves to sin. Without the grace of the regenerating Holy Spirit they are neither willing nor able to return to God, to reform their distorted nature, or even to prepare themselves for such reform.

5. Because of man's sin, he is not willing or able to be reconciled to God.

John 8: 44 "You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

If fact, man consistently does what is opposite to what God says. Idolatry 偶像崇拜 is promoted in society. God's name is misused for jokes. The Sabbath is a day for sports. Children are trained to call the authorities and dishonor their parents. Murderers are protected. You are a prude 老古板 if you don't commit adultery. Men are trained to use the law to steal from the rich. Lies are perpetuated by preachers and politicians. And we are fed covetousness 贪婪 from birth. No wonder he has no interest in reconciliation with God.

6. God must work faith in the heart of the non-believer so that that he might receive what Christ offers...a perfect covenant keeping, and the value of his death.

Isaiah 53: 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.
我们众人都如羊走迷了路, 各人偏行己路, 耶和华却把我们众人的罪孽, 都归在他身上。

John 3: 3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, 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? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" 5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

No Christ, no salvation.

Conclusion:

What was sin's effect? Sin was devastating毁灭性 to man. Man lost the ability to do good, having become corrupt in his body, his mind, and his spirit. What was the extent of man's sin? Sin was passed on to the entire human race. Only the 2nd Adam, your covenant keeper could restore you back to a relationship with God by keeping the covenant for you and taking your punishment for breaking the covenant.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: I expect you to be beaten down by this message – to be humbled – to feel low – when you consider the extent of your sins – sins from your root. I also expect that you will be lifted up on high – yes, you should be on a high – when you recognize the greatness of work of the Lord Jesus for you. This brings true happiness真正的幸福 – happiness to the depths of the soul. But along with your joy must come your job. You have been called to spread that joy to the world – starting in your home. So pray for the spread of his joy, support the spread of this joy, speak so others can see their sins, embrace the Savior, and receive this joy.

Finally, if you are not a Christian, God offers to change you...to draw you to himself...and then clean you out of all your sins. Would you receive what he offers...and will you do so today?