



# TOTAL HEREDITARY DEPRAVITY

The Doctrine of John Calvin



# Original Sin

- John Calvin said, “Adam involved his posterity also, and plunged them in the same wretchedness. This is the hereditary corruption to which early Christian writers gave the name Original Sin, meaning by the term the depravation of a nature formerly good and pure.”
- Calvin asserted that 1 Cor 15:22 “*In Adam all die*” meant that mankind's nature fell when Adam sinned, this could be the *only* explanation.
- God does not produce a sinful spirit – Eccl 12:7
- Punishment for sin is not inherited – Deu 24:16; Eze 18:19-20

# Total Depravity

- Calvin said, “Depravity of our nature, extending to all the parts of the soul,... produces in us works of the flesh.”
- Infants are said to be condemned from the womb, “the old man” of sin in every heart born into the world – Ps 51:5; 22:9
- Every person is made by God – Ps 139:14; Gen 2:7
- The Kingdom is made of childlikeness – Matt 18:3; Luke 18:16

# Is It God's Fault?

- Sin enters because of transgression – 1 Jn 3:4
- No one can claim God is at fault – Jam 1:13-15
- Peter's instructions are contradictory if total depravity is true – Acts 2:40
- Evangelism makes no logical sense – Mark 16:15