

Adam's will was created free of sin. He was imbued with original righteousness, having been made in the image and likeness of God.

Adam lost that original righteousness, passing his now sinful nature to his progeny:

And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, and after his image; and called his name Seth.

Adam was created with the capability of freely choosing to sin or not to sin.

Adam had true 'free will.'

He did not have the innate compulsion to sin as we do today.

Yet he freely chose to sin.

Scripture gives a profoundly damning indictment of the human race in Genesis 6:5 & 8:21:

*And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.
.....the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth.....*

Either the Holy Spirit was exaggerating the sinful nature of man or He was telling the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

This writer holds to the latter, believing the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth who cannot lie.

In the judgment of our holy righteous God, mankind thinks thoughts which are only evil all the time.

Jesus concurs:

For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander
(Matt. 15:19).

Jesus judged His listeners as evil (Matt. 7:11; Luke 11:13).

As a result of Adam's freely choosing to sin, three significant changes occurred in his behavior.

First, he innately felt the need to cover his nakedness because of the humiliation, shame and disgrace which accompanied his disobedience.

Second, rather than continue the sweet fellowship with the Lord, he ran away, hiding in fear.

Third, he refused to take responsibility for his sin, shifting the blame back to the Lord who gave him the woman in the first place.

This same tactic is used by Paul's detractors when informed God had determined the destinies of all men

before they were born.

Since the men whose doomed destinies were carrying out God's eternal decree concerning their damned eternal outcome, how can they be blamed for doing exactly that which God infallibly and absolutely decreed they do?

Why doth he yet find fault? For who hath resisted his will? (Romans 9:19).

In other words, Paul's detractors place the ultimate blame on God who destined them vessels of wrath fitted to destruction.

After all, the vessels of wrath were simply carrying out His sovereign decree.

Paul's response is direct and sharp: The audacity of man questioning God's character and motives!

Similarly, Adam's response to the Lord's accusation was to question the Lord's character and wisdom.

MAN HAS NOT CHANGED

The will and heart of man has not changed over the ages.

By nature man runs from God and His divine truth.

By nature man blames others for his 'shortcomings,' or blames his Creator (whoever that is) for making him 'only human,' liable to flaws.

By nature man seeks that which will cover/hide his flaws.

One common way is to believe man is basically 'good,' with the potential to be 'better.'

WHY MAN NEEDS A NEW HEART

Jesus, the Apostles and Scripture do not waver when testifying to the depravity of the human condition.

Though not all are literal murderers, all have murdered in their hearts (Matthew 5:21-22).

In fact, it does not take long for mankind to break all commandments in their hearts.

Man's will is inextricably tied to his nature.

Man does not will that which he naturally detests.

Evil man does not desire that which is holy.

The crucifixion of Christ is the ultimate demonstration of this truth.

To counteract man's detestation of true holiness, Satan has developed a counterfeit holiness which man

does desire, giving him a false sense of eternal security.

These come in the form of false Christs who demand little or nothing from worshippers.

If you say a sinners' prayer correctly with the right attitude, you are infallibly saved.

They come in the form of ornate churches containing many images and idols, and even water which is blessed and holy.

They come in the form of religious leaders who wear ostentatious garb to prove their religiosity and status.

They may even perform lying signs and wonders to amaze their deluded followers.

CONCLUSION: Man cannot, by the power of his sinful will, change his heart and desires.

Man is impotent (Romans 5:1).

Man needs the supernatural, omnipotent creative powers of Almighty God to effectuate that change.

NEXT: God promises to effect that change in the many men He loves.