

SINFUL NATURE????

10-29-2024 PM.

INTRO.:

A. Text: Psalm 139:14.

B. Regarding the text:

1. God designed and created us in a wonderful way.
2. He did not instill in men an evil heart.
3. Our lesson will show that we are born innocent and without a sinful nature.

I. DOES MAN HAVE A SINFUL NATURE?

A. Genesis 1:26 “And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness...”

1. It is God that made man... “in our image...”
2. Did God put in men a sinful nature? **Genesis 1:31** “And God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good...”

B. Did God place in Adam and Eve a sinful nature?

1. Or did God allow them to make choices?
2. **Joshua 24:15** “choose you this day whom ye will serve...”
3. **Acts 2:41** “Then they that gladly received his word were baptized...”

C. Some teach that man has an evil, sinful nature.

1. They say that it has resided in man since he was born. Those who advocate this have accepted Calvin’s doctrine of “Total Hereditary Depravity.”
2. Adam’s sin, we are told, corrupted man’s nature. And this corrupt nature has been passed on to all men who have followed Adam. At birth, one enters into this world with a sinful nature.

D. They misuse Ephesians 2:3 “Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were *by nature* the children of wrath, even as others.”

1. Paul reminds the Ephesians that “they were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.”
2. Here the word “*nature*” means “a mode of feeling or acting, which by long habit has become nature.” The Gentiles were not born with a sinful nature they developed that lifestyle.
3. **1 Corinthians 11:14**: “Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him?”
 - 1) How does “nature itself teach” that long hair is a shame to a man? When nature is defined as “long standing habit,” it is easily understood.
 - 2) In the first century, men wore their hair short. This had been the practice for many, many years. If a man failed to cut his hair, his long hair was a shame to him.
 - 3) Paul’s readers easily understood this long-standing habit and could make the application to Paul’s words in **1 Corinthians**.

II. TOTAL DEPRAVITY AND SINFUL NATURE ARE MAN-MADE DOCTRINES. THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT MAN IS COMPOSED OF BOTH A BODY AND A SPIRIT.

A. Our physical bodies come from the union of our parents. We are born with certain traits that comes from our parents.

B. Our spirit comes from God.

1. **Zechariah 12:1** “The burden of the word of the LORD for Israel, saith the LORD, which stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth, and *formeth the spirit of man within him*.”
2. **Ecclesiastes 12:7** “... the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.”

- 1) Can anyone imagine that God, a pure and holy being, would place an evil, corrupt spirit within man at birth? Surely not!
- 2) Babies are born innocent, knowing neither good nor evil (**Mark 10:14** "But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.")
- 3) **Eccl. 7:29** "God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions." (Translated as *righteous* in Psalm 15:19.)
- 4) As man grows, he develops the ability to distinguish between good and evil. With that knowledge, he can choose to sin.
- 5) When that happens, that individual becomes guilty before God (**Rom. 6:23**).
 - a. That individual stands in need of the salvation found in the gospel of Christ (**Rom. 1:16-17**).
 - b. Babies do not need to repent. Jesus said of small children: "...for of such is the kingdom of heaven" (**Matt. 19:14**).

C. Genesis 1:26.

1. It is God that made man. He said "in our image..."
 - 1) Did God place in Adam and Eve a sinful nature?
 - 2) Or did God allow men to make choices?
2. **Joshua 24:15** "choose you this day whom ye will serve..."
3. **Acts 2:40-41** "And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

III. CONCLUSION:

A. We are born without sin.

B. The sinful nature is a product of man's decision to change (Rom. 1:26-27**).**