

What is Depravity?

How Able Am I to Save Myself?

Depravity does not mean that people are as bad as they could possibly be. Even the vilest and evil among us are capable of being worse than they already are. Many of our unsaved neighbors and acquaintances live decent lives. They responsibly involve themselves into the community and care for their loved one. They are considerate of those around them and strive to live well. Is declaring them “depraved” accurate?

“Depraved” means that every part of every person has been affected by sin. The result of depravity is that no one can come to Christ for salvation apart from the working of God in their life. “Depravity” means that a person cannot save themselves and would not even desire salvation without God drawing them to Himself.

The Continuation of Sin

What is the proof that mankind is depraved. Thinking that murderers and other vile people are depraved is easy. The Bible teaches that all people, not just individuals, are depraved. What is the proof that humanity is depraved and incapable of achieving goodness on their own accord? Read the Passages of Scripture to answer the following questions to discover what the Bible says about mankind’s condition.

Shortly after mankind’s first sin in the Garden of Eden, what conclusion did God make regarding the whole of humanity? (Gen. 6:5)

How does God describe the human heart (metaphorical heart is the inner part of man where emotion, will, and intellect reside)? (Jer. 17:9)

In Romans 3:10-18, Paul describes unregenerate humans. According to Paul how many people are searching for God and desire God’s righteousness for themselves? What does mankind seek and desire according to Romans 3:10-18?

Sin is the proof that man is depraved
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Depravity – Man Cannot Do “Good” Apart from God

In John 15:4-5, Jesus uses grape vines as an illustration for people doing good works. If a branch is separated from the vine, what is the expected outcome?

What is the only hope for a branch to produce fruit?

How does the illustration of the branch and vine relate to people's ability to do good things?

Apart from Christ, mankind cannot do anything that God would consider "good"

Depravity – Man Cannot Understand "Good" Apart from God

According to Luke, what was necessary for Lydia, who was a God-fearing woman, to understand and accept the gospel message? (Acts 16:14)

What do Christians know about the death of Christ that unbelievers do not? What is the opinion of the unsaved about Christ's death being the only way for salvation? (1 Cor. 1:18)

How does Ephesians 4:18 describe the unsaved?

Humans are blind to the Good things of God. God causes people to see what they otherwise could not.

Depravity – Man Cannot Desire "Good" Apart from God

What does Jesus say is necessary for people to come to Christ? Left to their own devices, how many people desire to come to Christ in salvation? (John 6:44)

In Ephesians 2:1, Paul describes believers before they were saved as being dead? What do you think Paul meant by "dead"? Why were people "dead"? What accomplishments do dead people make? What expectations do we have for people while they are dead?