

Session Two—The Nature of Man

Originally created good, but fell.

- “Rather, as a result of Satan’s seduction through the fall, human beings, in accord with God’s judgment and sentence, have as their punishment lost the original righteousness with which they were created.” (536.27)

Deeply corrupted by original sin.

- Genesis 6:5—The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.
- Genesis 8:21—“I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man’s heart is evil from his youth.”
- Romans 7:19—For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.
- Romans 7:25—So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.
- Galatians 5:17—For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.
- Psalm 51:5—Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.
- “The damage is so indescribable that it cannot be recognized by our reason but only from God’s Word.” (489.9) Still remains a creature of God
- “We believe, teach and confess that there is a difference between original sin and human nature—not only as God originally created it pure, holy, and without sin, but also as we have it now after the fall. Even after the fall this nature still is and remains a creature of God.” (488.2)
- Deuteronomy 32:6—Do you thus repay the Lord, you foolish and senseless people? Is not he your father, who created you, who made you and established you?
- Isaiah 45:11—Thus says the Lord, the Holy One of Israel, and the one who formed him, “Ask me of things to come; will you command me concerning my children and the work of my hands?”
- Isaiah 54:5—“For your Maker is your husband, the Lord of hosts is his name; the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer, the God of the whole earth he is called.”
- Acts 17:24-25—“The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.”

- Revelation 4:11—“Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.”

The devil drives man to sin

- Ephesians 2:1-2—And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience...
- 1 Peter 5:8—Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

Cannot know all our sins

- Psalm 19:12—Who can discern his errors?
- Jeremiah 17:9—The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?

Retain certain understanding, power and abilities

- “Ever since the fall, the human being inherits an inborn evil way of doing things, an internal impurity of the heart, and an evil desire and inclination, so that we all by nature inherit such a heart, mind, and way of thinking from Adam.... True, in other—natural, external—matters, which are subject to reason, the human being retains to a certain extent its understanding, powers, and ability—even though so greatly weakened, so poisoned and adulterated through the inherited defect, that it is worth nothing in God’s sight.” (534.12)

Does not have the “spark” of spiritual power

- John 8:34—“Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin.”
- 2 Timothy 2:26--...and they may escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

Cannot obey God

- 1 Corinthians 2:14—The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

Diametrically opposed to God’s will

- The downward spiral of Romans 1
- Genesis 6:5—The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.
- Genesis 8:21—“I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man’s heart is evil from his youth.”