
BIBLE TALK

This week our question is: ***Are babies born totally depraved in sin?***

Defining Sin

In order to give a Scriptural answer to this question, it is imperative that we define what sin is. Sin is not something a baby inherits. Sin is something a person does. Sin is a transgression of God's law!

1 John 3:4 (KJV)

⁴ Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for ***sin is the transgression of the law.***

James 4:17

¹⁷ Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do *it*, to him it is sin.

These passages are plain enough. Sin is an action. It is something a person does. A person sins when he either does what God forbids, or neglects what God commands. Sin is not something inherited by a baby.

Babies Are Born Pure

The fact that babies are born pure and free from sin is clearly taught in Scripture.

Romans 9:11

¹¹ (for *the children* not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls).

Twin babies are under consideration in this passage. Neither child, before he was born, had done any good or evil. Since sin is a transgression of God's law, neither child was born with sin on his account.

Rather than being sinners from birth, the Bible teaches men become sinners from their youth:

Genesis 8:21

²¹ ... the imagination of *man's heart is evil from his youth* ...

If man's heart becomes evil in his youth then it must have been pure at birth.

King David knew babies were born pure and innocent. David's wife, Bathsheba, had a baby that died when it was only three days old. Concerning the baby, David said:

2 Samuel 12:23

²³ "Now he is dead; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me."

David said he would eventually go to the same place the baby went. David was a saved man. When he died, he went to heaven. If he went to the same place his baby son went, then the baby went to heaven too. Neither the baby nor David could go to heaven if they were sinners. David was a forgiven man, and the baby was pure and innocent from birth.

God, The Father Of Spirits

How can it be that a baby with sinful parents could be born free from sin? The Scriptures furnish the answer to this question.

The Bible teaches we inherit our physical qualities from our parents. Our fleshly parents give to us our fleshly traits. But the Bible also teaches that God is the Father of our spirits:

Ecclesiastes 12:7

⁷ ... the spirit will return to God who gave it.

Acts 17:28

²⁸ "... we are [*God's*] offspring.'

Hebrews 12:9

⁹ ... Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to ***the Father of spirits*** and live?

Since our spirits come from God, rather than our physical parents, we are not born with sin. We are not depraved unless God is depraved and, of course, He is completely pure and righteous.

When Jesus was on earth, He taught children were not depraved, because He taught men must become like children in order to enter into the kingdom of heaven:

Matthew 18:3

³ [*Jesus*] said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

How could Jesus have used little children as examples for the kingdom of heaven if little children are totally depraved? This calls for the understanding that children are pure and innocent.

By inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the prophet Ezekiel wrote the following:

Ezekiel 18:20

²⁰ "The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous

shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.

Here the Scriptures tell us men are sinners by choice, not by birth. No one can blame his parents if he is lost. Each person gives account to God for his own actions:

2 Corinthians 5:10

¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things *done* in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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