

Total Depravity Pt. 4

Romans 8:6–8 (NKJV)

⁶ For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. ⁷ Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. ⁸ So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Introduction

The prevailing view today of the human will in regards to its ability to choose Christ is the “libertarian view” or as it is so often termed “freewill”

Of all the areas of theological debates, it seems that the most aggressively and dogmatically defended is that of “freewill”

There are a couple of reasons why this is the case and why it is so widely held.

1. The continuing influence of Arminian Theology

2. The influence of Charles Finney and the incorporation of the Anxious bench, and the modern invitational system.
3. Very little teaching regarding the bondage of the will in the Church
4. The belief that if we are not free, then we are just Robots
5. The belief that there cannot be any real accountability to God if we are not truly free to receive Christ.

This is at the root of it all.

How can a man be held accountable for something he is not free to do.

How can a man be held responsible for coming to Christ when the Bible says he cannot.

This view, really believes that it is protecting the integrity of God and His rightness to Judge fairly and that if men are not truly free to come to Christ and believe on their own, then it would not be right for God to judge them and send them to Hell if they don't.

This is the issue that Jonathan Edwards addresses in his book on the “Freedom of the Will”
You can see it in the original title.

A Careful and Strict Inquiry into the Modern Prevailing Notions of That Freedom of the Will, Which Is Supposed to Be Essential to Moral Agency, Virtue and Vice, Reward and Punishment, Praise and Blame

In his view, there needs to be a distinction made between
Physical inability and Moral inability

1. Physical Inability -meaning- that I am not able to respond even though everything in me wants to and wills to respond.

Example

The quadriplegic who cannot get out of the chair, but

desires to get up and out with every fiber of his being.

All his desire and will is to get up and walk but he cannot.

If he were held accountable and punished for not getting up, when he has every desire and will to do so but because of his physical inability he cannot, that would be wrong and unjust.

2. Moral inability -meaning- although I have the ability to respond. I have will, and desire and the physical ability to respond, because I love were I am so much, I refuse to get up.

The Moral inability comes from his love of sin. He is unable to physically come to Christ because of his love of darkness.

You so love your sin and darkness that no matter how convincing and how beautiful Christ is, you are unwilling to let your sin go.

Romans 1:18–20 (NKJV)

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,
¹⁹ because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

John Piper wrote in response to,
"John 3:19–20. "This is the judgment that light has come into the world and people *loved* darkness

rather than light, because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things *hates the light.*"

This is a love hate issue. This is not a decision issue. (the sinner) Hates the light, does not come to the light, "lest his works should be exposed."

So the bondage of the human heart that keeps it from coming to Christ is not that light is *lacking*, but that light is *hated* and darkness is *loved*. This is a real bondage. You cannot embrace as bright and beautiful what you hate. You cannot. You cannot repudiate as dark and ugly what you love. You cannot. Hate and love are not decisions. They are profound, controlling preferences of the palate of the soul.

You don't choose what you love and hate. You come into the world hating and loving. Darkness tastes good to the natural palate and light tastes bitter to the natural palate. You cannot enjoy as sweet what tastes bitter to you. And you cannot have distaste for what tastes good to you. You cannot. These are real *cannots*. They are real *cannots* and they are the kind of *cannots*, the kind of inability, that are blameworthy and culpable because they are not things we are forced to do against our will, they *are our will.*"

Lesson

I. The Expression

Dead

Blind

Bound

II. The Extent

1. OUR BODIES ARE AFFECTED BY SIN
2. OUR HEARTS ARE AFFECTED BY SIN
3. OUR MINDS ARE AFFECTED BY SIN
4. OUR EMOTIONS ARE AFFECTED BY SIN
5. OUR CONSCIENCES ARE AFFECTED BY SIN.
6. OUR WILLS ARE AFFECTED BY SIN

III. The Effect

The Effect can be summed up with one Word

Bondage

John 8:31–34 (NKJV)

³¹ Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “**If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.** ³² And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

³³ They answered Him, “We are Abraham’s descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How *can* You say, ‘**You will be made free’?**”

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “**Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin.**

- 1. Bondage to Guilt and Condemnation.**
- 2. Bondage of Love for Evil and Sin and Darkness**
- 3. Bondage to the hatred for Gods Supremacy**
- 4. Bondage to Deadness in Sin**
- 5. Bondage to Blindness to the Glory of Christ**

1. Bondage to Guilt and Condemnation.

Romans 3:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

Romans 3:9 (NKJV)

⁹ What then? Are we better *than they?* Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin.

Galatians 3:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, “*Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them.*”

Romans 5:12 (NKJV)

¹² Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—

Romans 5:18–19 (NKJV)

¹⁸ Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, ...¹⁹ For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners,...

John 3:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ **"He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned (Prf. pass) already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.**

2. Bondage of Love for Evil and Sin and Darkness

John 3:19–20 (NKJV)

¹⁹ **And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.** ²⁰ **For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.**

You cannot enjoy as sweet what taste bitter to you.

We are not forced to do this against our will, this is our will.

This is the root of the will issue. Men have a free will but their will, will only work within the context of their loves and hates. What they love they will pursue. What they hate they will avoid.

This is also what makes men responsible before God to believe when they are unable to.

They are unable to come to Christ and believe in Christ because of their love for sin and their hatred of holiness and God.

They are not being held against their will so that they cannot come,
rather
they will not come because that is their will.

God is calling them out of sin and darkness, but they love their sin so much they are bound by it.

John 5:44 (NKJV)

⁴⁴ How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that *comes* from the only God?

3. Bondage to the hatred of Gods Supremacy

Romans 8:6–8 (NKJV)

⁶ For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. ⁷ Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. ⁸ So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

mindset n. — a habitual or characteristic mental attitude that determines how you will interpret and respond to situations.

In class. times we find the adj. φρόνιμος “understanding,” and the two verbal nouns φρόνημα “thought,” also “disposition,” and φρόνησις “thinking,” “reason,” “cleverness” etc. φρένες retains for the most part the less precise sense of “inner attitude.”

Bertram, G. (1964–). φρένος, ἄφρων, ἀφροσπίνη, φρονέω, φρόνημα, φρόνηται, φρόνιμος. G. Kittel, G. W. Bromiley, & G. Friedrich (Eds.), *Theological dictionary of the New Testament* (electronic ed., Vol. 9, p. 221). Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans.

hostility (state) n. — a state of deep-seated ill-will.

Luke 23:12 (NKJV)

¹² That very day Pilate and Herod became friends with each other, for previously they had been at enmity with each other.

Galatians 5:19–20 (NKJV)

¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness,
²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies,

Ephesians 2:14–17 (NKJV)

¹⁴ For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, ¹⁵ having abolished in His flesh the enmity, *that is*, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man *from* the two, *thus* making peace, ¹⁶ and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. ¹⁷ And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near.

James 4:4 (NKJV)

⁴ Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

qeri: opposition, contrariness

Original Word: קָרֵי

Part of Speech: Noun Masculine

Transliteration: qeri

Phonetic Spelling: (ker-ee')

Definition: opposition, contrariness

Leviticus 26:1 (NKJV)

26 ‘You shall not make idols for yourselves; neither a carved image nor a *sacred* pillar shall you rear up for yourselves; nor shall you set up an engraved stone in your land, to bow down to it; for I *am* the Lord your God.

Leviticus 26:2–3 (NKJV)

2 You shall keep My Sabbaths and reverence My sanctuary:
I *am* the Lord.

³ ‘If you walk in My statutes and keep My commandments, and perform them,

Leviticus 26:4–6 (NKJV)

- ⁴ then I will give you rain in its season, the land shall yield its produce, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit.
- ⁵ Your threshing shall last till the time of vintage, and the vintage shall last till the time of sowing; you shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely.
- ⁶ I will give peace in the land, and you shall lie down, and none will make *you* afraid; I will rid the land of evil beasts, and the sword will not go through your land.

Leviticus 26:11–12 (NKJV)

- ¹¹ I will set My tabernacle among you, and My soul shall not abhor you.
- ¹² I will walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people.

Leviticus 26:14–17 (NKJV)

- ¹⁴ ‘But if you do not obey Me, and do not observe all these commandments,

¹⁵ and if you despise My statutes, or if your soul abhors My judgments, so that you do not perform all My commandments, *but* break My covenant,

¹⁶ I also will do this to you:

I will even appoint terror over you, wasting disease and fever which shall consume the eyes and cause sorrow of heart.

And you shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it.

¹⁷ I will set My face against you, and you shall be defeated by your enemies.

Those who hate you shall reign over you, and you shall flee when no one pursues you.

כ'
ב'

Leviticus 26:21–24 (NKJV)

²¹ ‘Then, if you walk **contrary** to Me, and are not willing to obey Me, I will bring on you seven times more plagues, according to your sins.

²² I will also send wild beasts among you, which shall rob you of your children, destroy your livestock, and make you few in number; and your highways shall be desolate.

²³ ‘And if by these things you are not reformed by Me, but walk **contrary** to Me,
²⁴ then I also will walk **contrary** to you, and I will punish you yet seven times for your sins.

ebah: enmity

Original Word: אֵיבָה

Part of Speech: Noun Feminine

Transliteration: ebah

Phonetic Spelling: (ay-baw')

Definition: enmity

Genesis 3:14–15 (NKJV)

¹⁴ So the Lord God said to the serpent:

“Because you have done this,
 You are cursed more than all cattle,
 And more than every beast of the field;
 On your belly you shall go,
 And you shall eat dust
 All the days of your life.

¹⁵ And I will put **enmity**

Between you and the woman,
 And between your seed and her Seed;
 He shall bruise your head,
 And you shall bruise His heel.”

Numbers 35:20–24 (NKJV)

²⁰ If he pushes him out of hatred or, while lying in wait, hurls something at him so that he dies, ²¹ or in **enmity** he strikes him with his hand so that he dies, the one who struck *him* shall surely be put to death. He *is* a murderer. The avenger of blood shall put the murderer to death when he meets him.

²² ‘However, if he pushes him suddenly **without enmity**, or throws anything at him without lying in wait, ²³ or uses a stone, by which a man could die, throwing *it* at him without seeing *him*, so that he dies, while he was not his enemy or seeking his harm, ²⁴ then the congregation shall judge between the manslayer and the avenger of blood according to these judgments.

1. Bondage to Guilt and Condemnation.
2. Bondage of Love for Evil and Sin and Darkness
3. Bondage to the hatred fo Gods Supremacy

4. Bondage to Deadness in Sin

Ephesians 2:1–5 (NKJV)

By Grace Through Faith

2 And you *He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,*

ontas eimi

ὄντας

being

V-PPA-AMP

² in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now **works** in the sons of disobedience,

works *energeó: to be at work, to work, to do*

Original Word: ἐνεργέω

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: energéō

Phonetic Spelling: (en-erg-eh'-o)

Definition: to be at work, to work, to do

Usage: I work, am operative, am at work, am made to work, accomplish; mid: I work, display activity.

1754 energéō (from 1722 /en, "engaged in," which intensifies 2041 /érgon, "work") – properly, energize, working in a situation which brings it from one stage (point) to the next, like an electrical current energizing a wire, bringing it to a shining light bulb.

³ among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the **lusts** of our flesh, fulfilling the **desires** (will) of the flesh and of the **mind**, and were by **nature** children of wrath, just as the others.

mind, diánoia (from 1223 /diá, "thoroughly, from side-to-side," which intensifies 3539 / noiéō, "to use the mind," from 3563 /noús, "mind") – properly, movement from one side (of an issue) to the other to reach balanced-conclusions; full-orbed *reasoning (= critical thinking)*, i.e. dialectical thinking that literally reaches "across to the other side" (of a matter).

nature phusis: nature

Original Word: φύσις, εως, ἡ

Part of Speech: Noun, Feminine

Transliteration: phusis

Phonetic Spelling: (foo'-sis)

Definition: nature

Usage: nature, inherent nature, origin, birth.

5449 phýsis – properly, inner nature, the underlying constitution or make-up of someone (something).

⁴ But God, who is (being, eimi p.part) rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,

⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us

alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

5. Bondage to Blindness to the Glory of Christ

1 Corinthians 2:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

1 Corinthians 2:13 (NKJV)

¹³ These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

1 Corinthians 2:12 (NKJV)

¹² Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know

the things that have been freely given to us by God.

1 Corinthians 2:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows **the things of God** except the Spirit of God.

1 Corinthians 2:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ But God has **revealed them** to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches **all things, yes, the deep things of God.**

The the things, he is talking about are the things of God, and more specifically the mystery of God concerning Christ, the Gospel

1 Corinthians 2:1–5 (NKJV)

2 And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. **2** For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and

Him crucified. ³I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling.
⁴And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

1 Corinthians 2:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴But the natural man **does not receive** the things of the Spirit of God, **for** they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

does not receive

dechomai: to receive

Original Word: δέχομαι

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: dechomai

Phonetic Spelling: (dekh'-om-ahee)

Definition: to receive

Usage: I take, receive, accept, welcome.

1209 déxomai – properly, to receive in a welcoming (receptive) way. 1209 (déxomai) is used of people welcoming God (His offers), like receiving and sharing in His salvation (1 Thes 2:13) and thoughts (Eph 6:17).

for they are (P.A.I) foolishness

mória: foolishness

Original Word: μωρία, ας, ḥ

Part of Speech: Noun, Feminine

Transliteration: mória

Phonetic Spelling: (mo-ree'-ah)

Definition: foolishness

Usage: folly, absurdity, foolishness.

Cognate: 3472 mōría (from [3474 /mōrós](#)) – folly; literally, dull (lacking sharpness).

for Original Word: γάρ

This explains why they don't receive the things of God.

They believe they are foolish. You cannot accept something as wise and truthful if you believe it is foolish.

1 Corinthians 2:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ But the natural man **does not receive** the things of the Spirit of God, **for** they are foolishness to him; nor **can** he know *them*, because they are spiritually **discerned**.

can

dunamai: Pres. Middle Ind

to be able, to have power

Original Word: δύναμαι

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: dunamai

Phonetic Spelling: (doo'-nam-ahee)

Definition: to be able, to have power

Usage: (a) I am powerful, have (the) power, (b) I am able, I can.

discerned.

anakrinó: to examine, investigate

Original Word: ἀνακρίνω

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: anakrinó

Phonetic Spelling: (an-ak-ree'-no)

Definition: to examine, investigate

Usage: I examine, inquire into, investigate, question.

350 anakrínō (from 303 /aná, "up, completing a process," which intensifies 2919 /krínō, "to select by separating/judging") – properly, to distinguish by vigorously judging "down to up," i.e. **closely examining (investigating) through "the process**

of careful study, evaluation and judgment" (L & N, 1, 27.44); "to examine, investigate, question (so J. B. Lightfoot, Notes, 181f).

2 Corinthians 4:1–5 (NKJV)

4 Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we do not lose heart. **2** But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commanding ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. **3** But even if (1st class) our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, **4** whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. **5** For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake.

Some questions we will answer next week.

1. How can God hold man Responsible to Believe?
2. Does man really Resist the Holy Spirit?
3. If man can't come to Christ why pray?
4. Does this discourage missions?

5. What does the Bible mean by “whosoever will”
If man can’t come?
6. Why did God give all the laws and commands if
man can’t obey them?
7. If man can’t come and is will is in bondage, then
how does he come?