

GRACE BIBLE CHURCH LORTON

The Depths of Man's Sin

Various Scriptures

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Series starting next Sunday: *Holding Things Loosely;*
Battling the Temptation to Tightly Grip Things God's Word Says to Hold Loosely

Last week we considered the limitations of man's knowledge, and man's foolish quest for an arrogant kind of personal omniscience.

Today we consider the depths of man's sin, coming to grips with life in our fallen world and the great hope of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Biblical anthropology says we don't really understand the heart of man unless and until we've studied the Creator to see how He describes us.

Early in man's existence, God described humanity this way:

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 6:5

Two prevalent examples of popular level thinking about man and evil:

1. Man is basically good but is led astray by his environment.

Parents, peers, and society do have a profound impact on shaping people's attitudes, but all people are born with a sinful nature that is geared toward hatred (Genesis 6:5; Psalm 14:1-3; Romans 3:9-20; Titus 3:3).

Depravity: Sin corrupts a person's thinking, emotions, will, desires, ability to reason, actions, and inactions; i.e. sin impacts the whole being and makes us completely unable to please God, apart from His gracious saving work.

2. Man's evil can be fixed with the right reforms in laws and structures and systems.

At the heart of all of the evils that beset us – racial injustice, sexual abuse, corruption, violence, murder, lying, cheating – is a heart in rebellion against God;

Applications

- 1 . Oppose violence, injustice, discrimination, the legalization of sexual immorality, and the disregard of human life, and advocate for truth, righteousness, justice, and kindness.
- 2 . Proclaim the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ as man's only eternal hope for forgiveness, peace, and life.
- 3 . Anticipate the return of Jesus Christ and the establishment of His eternal kingdom.

Questions to Consider

1. Are there ways in which you've been tempted toward despair, anger, or fear in considering the direction of our country?
2. Have you seen/heard societal arguments that man is basically good and is more naturally prone to love others?
3. How does the Bible teach that all people are sinful from conception? As it pertains to sin, what is our relationship to Adam and his sin?
4. Why is it important that Romans 5 and 6 and 1st Corinthians 15:21-22 compare man's receiving of guilt from Adam to the believer's receiving of righteousness from Christ?
5. Why must we see – as Psalm 51:4 says – that our wrongdoing against other people is ultimately sin before God?
6. What are practical ways that you can advocate for truth, righteousness, justice, and kindness in society?
7. As you follow Christ in the midst of a fallen world, how are you proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ, and how are you living in light of the return of Jesus Christ?