

# The Choice is Ours

## Introduction

- 1. Some people actually believe that we are born with a sinful nature that leaves us "totally depraved", that is, unable to choose right over wrong.**
  - A. There are those who believe that Adam and Eve were the only ones who ever had "free-will". After the fall of Adam and Eve, we have all inherited an "original sin-nature".**
  - B. There are various extremes to which religious people carry this idea.**
    - 1) One extreme is that man does not really have a choice in life or in destiny. Is that true? Does the Bible teach that man is simply a victim of inherited sin? Does man have no real choices he can make? What does the Bible say?**

## C - Calvinism Denies Real Choice

1. **If total depravity were true, then the effort to reason with men is an effort in futility.**

A. **Yet, God tried to reason with depraved men. Why? Because Man could then, and can now make a choice.**

**Isaiah 1:18-20**

**Deuteronomy 30:19-20**

**Joshua 24:15**

Proverbs 3:31 Do not envy the oppressor, And **choose none of his ways;**

2. **If total depravity were so, then the whole Bible is useless for most, and the few that God has selected cannot misunderstand ANY of it.**

A. **If it was written only for the elect, then they will understand it perfectly. Otherwise, if they misunderstand SOME of it, and the unenlightened can understand SOME of it, then the elect and the non-elect are in the same condition.**

3. **If it is written so that understanding may be gained, then God believes in the ability of man to gain a higher ground of responsibility through greater understanding.**

4. **But TOTAL Depravity suggests that there is no such capability in man. If he can be reasoned into a better condition, then his depravity is not total.**

A. **Man's sinful condition CAN be reversed, IF man is not so completely depraved as to have no reasoning ability left.**

**Without choice-****H-Hypocrisy Would Not Exist**

1. **A hypocrite is someone who "play acts" in one setting, but is really something else in character.**
  - A. **But, if man has such a sinful nature that leaves him without "choice", then it would be foolish to ever charge someone with the sin of "hypocrisy".**
  - B. **A man without a choice is a man who cannot "play" or pretend other than what he is programmed to play. He is not at fault for a so-called "hypocrisy".**
  
2. **Yet, Jesus' words are cutting toward people who "have no choice?"**

Matthew 23:13-15 But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, **hypocrites!** For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, **hypocrites!** For you devour widows' houses, and for a pretense make long prayers. Therefore you will receive greater condemnation.

Romans 12:9 **Let love be without hypocrisy.** Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.

James 3:17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, **without partiality and without hypocrisy.**

**Without choice-****O-Obedience Is Impossible**

1. **The very word "obey" rings with choice. It means to carry out orders. But, orders are to set you in a direction you were not on in the past.**
  - A. **Therefore, it is a call to a new or different direction. This implies the ability (or choice) to go another direction.**
    - 1) **But, it is impossible to get people to obey who can't choose to obey or disobey.**

Exodus 19:5 Now therefore, if you will indeed **obey My voice and keep My covenant**, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine.

Acts 5:29 But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We **ought to obey** God rather than men.

Hebrews 5:9 And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to **all who obey Him**,

**Without choice-****I-If Is A Useless Word**

1. **"If" is often used in the context of two opposite choices. When it is used it means that choice is a definite possibility.**

Deuteronomy 11:26-28 the blessing, **if you obey** the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you today; and the curse, **if you do not obey** the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside from the way which I command you today, to go after other gods which you have not known.

**John 14:15**

**Without choice-****C-Corruption Is Impossible**

- 1. If man does not have a choice or a free-will, then it cannot be said that he is corrupt, nor that he is getting worse and worse.**
- 2. There is nothing "worse" than total depravity. A totally depraved person cannot get worse and worse. Yet the Bible teaches:**

2 Timothy 3:13 But evil men and impostors **will grow worse** and worse, deceiving and being deceived.

- 3. Man cannot "corrupt his way" - if he has no better choice.**

Genesis 6:11-12 The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh **had corrupted their way** on the earth.

**Without choice-****E-Examples Cannot Be Followed:**

1. **If man has no choice, then no one can set a standard for someone else to follow or imitate.**
2. **If man has no power of choice, he cannot choose to imitate the qualities of another.**
  - A. **Jesus cannot be the standard to follow, unless man has the capability to choose to reach a higher standard for himself.**
  - B. **If he cannot choose a higher standard, then there is no point in saying that we should follow the example of Jesus.**
  - C. **Yet, examples challenge us to imitate, and a challenge is a call for a higher standard.**

John 13:15 "For I have **given you an example**, that you should do as I have done to you.

1 Timothy 4:12 Let no one despise your youth, but **be an example** to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

1 Peter 2:21 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, **leaving us an example**, that you should **follow His steps**:

## **Conclusion**

- 1. Choice means you **ARE RESPONSIBLE**. Without choice, there can be no responsibility.**
- 2. God's judgment based on deeds proves we can do better.**
- 3. We are all responsible to choose the narrow way that leads to life.**
- 4. Choosing to defer that choice, means you'll be responsible for your lost condition.**
  - A. When you have to make a choice and don't make it, that is in itself a choice!**
- 5. God our Father is providing you a choice - a way out of sin through Jesus. Choose today whom you will serve.**

