

Heidelberg Catechism 6-7 – Perverted Parents, Perverted Children

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Who would like to admit that their parents were perverted 堕落的? Now it is true that there are slightly different understandings of the word “perverted,” but the essential meaning is the same: You have perverted parents. They sin and they enjoy sinning. That is exactly how God described them in the Bible... And it is important to come to that conclusion...because it explains exactly who you are. And you are perverted as your parents are. And your children will be perverted as well. All men, as the word “perverse” 故意作对的 means, have turned the wrong ways. This is what God wants you to hear today...

Our headings are: God did not make you perverted, and Your Parents made you perverted.

Our goals are: That you will daily run to the Lord and thank him for your freedom from your depravity, and that you will work to rescue those who are languishing in their sins.

God did not make you perverted

6 Q. DID GOD CREATE MAN SO WICKED AND PERVERSE?

A. No. God created man good and in his own image, that is, in true righteousness and holiness, so that he might truly know God his creator, love him with all his heart, and live with him in eternal happiness for his praise and glory.

1. Let’s establish this doctrine: You are perverted. It is true that you have a natural tendency because of your sins to think you are not so sinful. Yes, your sins make you think you are not so sinful.

2. But did God make you that way. Look at 3 important things that the Bible teaches you about man’s nature when he was created.

a. God created man good... very good. Man was free from any perverse ways. Man headed in the right direction.

Genesis 1:31 Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

b. God created man in God’s own image. This means that man was truly righteous and holy when he was created. Man reflected the communicable attributes of God.

Genesis 1: 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

c. God created man with the full ability to know God.

This word “know” means to love. It means to experience in a personal way...and this shows a closeness to the object of love.

3. What is the result of all this “knowledge” about the way God made mankind?

a. Man could love God – with all his heart, soul, mind, and strength. You saw that last week.

b. Man could live with God in eternal happiness and was fully satisfied. Man did not want to be like God...all wise and all knowing. He was contented 满足的 with being the creature and with God being the Creator. Man could be close to God. The Lord Jesus even met with man every evening when he was still in the Garden of Eden.

c. Even after man fell, God restored him to himself through Jesus Christ, the 2nd Adam, and then began to restore the damaged image of God in man.

Ephesians 4:24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. 25 Therefore, putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another.

Colossians 3: 9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, 10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

4. After man was restored to his old position through Jesus Christ and declared to be righteous and holy,

man is now able to properly praise God again. He now praises God as his Creator and his Re-Creator – both through Jesus.

Psalm 8:1 To the Chief Musician. On the instrument of Gath. A Psalm of David. O LORD, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth, Who have set Your glory above the heavens!

2 Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have ordained praise, Because of Your enemies, That You may silence the enemy and the avenger. 3 When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained, 4 What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him? 5 For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him with glory and honor. 6 You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet,

This is a great privilege: someone as ordinary and sinful as you can enter into his holy majesty ...and converse 交谈 with him...any time of the day...even with the most puny小的 thing. He is never embarrassed by you...as you might be of being around a dirty...or depraved person.

Your Parents made you perverted

7 Q. THEN WHERE DOES MAN'S CORRUPT HUMAN NATURE COME FROM ?

A. From the fall and disobedience of our first parents, Adam and Eve, in Paradise. This fall has so poisoned our nature that we are born sinners– corrupt from conception on.

1. Like it or not, it was your first parents who sinned and passed on that sin to you. That sin changed the innermost nature of your parents and they consequently passed on that sinful nature to you. Furthermore, it was your first parents who started to deny their sin by hiding, and that is the same thing they passed on to you that you do.

Genesis 3:6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

So when you hear people deny their sin...they are confirming the truth of the Bible. God said that the wicked will deny their sin. It is not normal to accept your sinfulness against God. When a man acknowledges his sin – either he is doing it to gain some advantage (false humility) or because the Holy Spirit of God is renewing him to be like Jesus Christ.

2. That sinful nature is taught with great clarity in the Bible. Those who use the Bible to teach that man is sick, not dead, are deliberately misusing the Scripture to make people feel better than they should or because they are totally ignorant of the most basic truth in the Bible.

Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—**17** For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.) **18** Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. **19** For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.

You were completely separated from eternal life and you were a prisoner of eternal death by your inherited sins and your actual sins.

Ephesians 2:1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 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, 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

3. That this sin goes all the way back to conception in your mother's womb is taught without doubt.

Psalm 51: 5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.

You are continuing not to evolve, like evolutionist and modern sociologists say. **No, you are continuing to devolve.** You are going backwards... down a hill...with a bottomless pit behind

you. Notice how Paul and now David, in our two passages above, did not tell people what they wanted to hear. They did not tell people that they were reasonably good. They needed to speak God's truth so man would see the seriousness of his condition and make his life right with God, just like you would tell someone who is dying that he is dying so he will to make his life right.

4. In order to avoid being called a sinner, man likes to create a scapegoat. This is why a man blames God for his sins ...or blames the Devil for tempting him to sin...or blames his environment and society for causing him to sin...or blames his parents for his sinful and criminal behavior. Most people believe they are relatively good in their lives.

Consider 2 examples of how a man choose to think better of himself and worse of others :

a. If and thinks he is poor, he justifies himself when he steals. He often argues like this: "Rich people have exploited others so I have a right to envy them and steal from them." The sinful man does not care that he is poor because he is lazy...and he does not care that the rich man may have inherited his wealth or worked hard for it. Somehow he acts as if the rich stole from him.

b. If the envious嫉妒的 **doesn't like the circumstances of his life** (or he doesn't like to see people poor, he then supports a government that wants to redistribute wealth. (Redistribute wealth is a nice phrase that means you overtax the rich and give to the poor.) The man, because he is sinful, thinks he is good. This is the ultimate perverseness. Somehow the rich are the "wicked ones."

5. In order to avoid being called a sinner, man likes to change the definition of sin. For him, sin is not really sin, as long as it does not hurt anyone! Examples:

a. It is okay to get drunk, just don't drive. That might hurt others.

b. It is okay to gamble, as long as you don't rob your children of food. That would hurt them.

c. It is okay to commit adultery, as long as it is not with someone's wife. That would hurt him.

d. It is okay to steal from government or your employer, they are not really people, but it hurts your neighbor if you steal from him.

e. It is okay if you kill yourself (as it is your life) as long as you don't kill others.

But you notice the Bible teaches, and the Catechism reaffirms that you are corrupt from your mother womb, so anything that comes out of you is corrupt. Fallen, unregenerate man is incapable of true faith, firm hope, and ardent love. Fallen undegenerated man cannot have gratitude. Fallen man is dead. There is no hope for fallen man, and that includes the elderly...and babies.

Conclusion:

God did not make you perverted and dead in sin, your parents did...and you add to that perversion every day. Your very existence became putrid and rotten in the nostrils of God. This means that man is in (he is not going to) a dreadful disaster that will culminate in ultimate and final death- separation from God forever. His only way out is that he gets new life. This is why Jesus said: "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, `You must be born again.'

Brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ: Every day you must thank the Lord for your rescue from sin and your eternal life. And you must pray that your children will grab hold of the promise God made to them at their baptism. And pray that God might rescue that person whom you love but is outside of Christ's kingdom. You have right of access because you are Christ's child. Use your privileges.

Finally: It might seem hopeless, based on who you are, that you can be saved. Yet, Jesus even takes a valley of dry bones and gives them life...and he did in Ezekiel's time. If you look to him and ask him to give you life (which means he is already working in you) then he will give you a new heart, and new record, and a new life.