

Heidelberg Catechism 6-7–Your family brings corruption, not comfort

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: You can inherit **beauty from your mother**. You can inherit **baldness from your father**. You can inherit **a business from both of them**. The thing you can't inherit from either of them is comfort for your soul! You need comfort, really need it, but they can't give it to you. You will hear today why you can't receive comfort from you family!

Our headings are:

God made your parents pure

Your parents made you perverse

Our goals are: **That you will daily run to the Lord and thank him for the comfort he gave you by freeing you from your depravity, and that you will work to rescue those who are still lacking true comfort.**

God made your parents pure

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. You are perverse, wicked, and corrupted, to the depths of your core.

And one of the first **evidence of the depths of this perverseness is the tendency to think you are not so bad**. This is one of the worse sins! **Your sins make you think you are not so sinful**.

2. But did God make man with that perverted core?

Absolutely not! Look at 3 important things about man's nature when God created him.
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 man was truly righteous and holy when God created him. 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...

c. God created man with the full ability to know God. Jesus even met with Adam and Eve every day! What better teacher could they have?

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

a. At creation man could love God – with all his heart, soul, mind, and strength.
“Know” means to love. “Know” means to experience something in a personal way. This **shows closeness** to the object of love - Jesus.

b. At creation, man could live with God in eternal happiness and be fully satisfied. Man did not want to be like God...all wise and all knowing. **He was contented** with being the creature and with God being the Creator.

4. But man fell, and after the fall God had to remake man and draw him to himself through Jesus Christ, restoring 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 3:10 and **have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him** who created him,

We can speak of this as the re-creation of man in Jesus Christ.

After restoring man through Jesus and declaring him righteous, man became able to properly praise God again. You offer your bodies as a living sacrifice...with thanksgiving.

Psalm 8:1...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 and honor that someone as sinful as you could enter into His Holy Majesty's presence. You are the guardians of creation.

Your 2nd Adam fixed what the 1st Adam messed up! You were made pure again!

Your Parents made you perverse

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. Your first parents sinned, corrupted their nature, and passed on that sin to you.

Whether you like this or not, it doesn't matter to God. Whether you agree with it or not, is doesn't matter to God. This is just the plain hard fact that you must accept. You reject it at your own peril.

2. Furthermore, your first parents denied their sin by hiding, so if you disagree with what you inherit, or if you argue against your sinfulness, you are doing exactly what Adam and Eve did.

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.

More, when people deny their sin...they are confirming the truth of the Bible. God said the wicked deny their sin. It is not normal to accept your sinfulness against God.

When a man *does* acknowledge his sin, it is usually because the Holy Spirit is renewing him to be like Jesus. So don't be surprised when you are evangelizing someone if they deny they are bad or sinful! That is normal!

3. That man has a sinful nature is taught with great clarity in the Bible.

Those who teach that man is only sick, but not dead in sin, are misusing the Scripture and are sadly making people feel better than they should.

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.

Sin, inherited and actual sins, completely separated you from eternal life and made you a prisoner of eternal death.

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...

4. This sin goes all the way back to conception in your mother's womb.

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

You are not continuing to evolve, like evolutionist and sociologists say. No, you are continuing to devolve. You are going backwards... down a hill...with a bottomless pit behind you. The writers did not tell people what they wanted to hear. They did not tell people they were reasonably good. They spoke 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 he is dying so he will make his life right with God.

5. Sometimes, however, in order to avoid being called a sinner, man creates a scapegoat: He 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. Two examples:

a. If a man is poor, he justifies himself when he steals. He may argue: "Rich people have exploited me so I have a right to envy and steal from them." But it could be the man is poor because he is lazy or lacks appropriate skills, or it may be the rich man may have inherited his wealth or worked hard for it.

(A young lady said a few years ago that a **homeowner should not have shot her cousin who was robbing her in her house because he needed money to buy clothes and stuff?**

Bernie Sanders said you are greedy if you are rich and want to keep your money for yourself!)

b. If the envious man doesn't like the circumstances of his life, he then supports a government which redistributes wealth. (Redistribute wealth is a nice phrase that means "overtax the rich and give to the poor." They don't care why someone is poor.) The envious thinks he is not greedy and that his behavior is justified. This is the ultimate perverseness. But many have been brainwashed to think this is good.

6. Look at examples now of how man tries to excuse his sin by arguing they are not so bad!

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 her husband.

d. It is okay to steal from government or a business as they are not really people, but don't steal from your neighbor, or it would hurt him.

e. It is okay if you kill yourself (Your body, your choice.) as long as you don't kill others...or it is okay to kill others as long as they want to die!

(These are the same ones today who say you must cover your face to protect them! Your body, their choice! They have a flexible/convenient system of morality.)

The church can get into trouble this way as well. The church should be less concerned about trans fats and whether people say "Merry Christmas" or not, and be more concerned about serious sins!

7. Anything that comes out of you is corrupt and you can't do anything good; fallen man is dead – even babies – and they get worse and worse.

You are incapable of having faith, hope, love, and gratitude. Your family leaves you comfortless!

Conclusion:

God did not make man perverse and dead in sin. Man's parents did and he add to that perverseness every day. Man's very existence became putrid and rotten in the nostrils of God. He could not stand to be near man. Man is in a deep pit that will culminate in ultimate and final death- separation from God forever. His only way out is that he gets new life through Jesus. Jesus said: "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit...`You must be born again.'

Brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Every day you must thank the Lord for your rescue from sin and for your eternal life.

Boast about him on **Facebook** and **Instagram** – more than you boast about how your banana bread turned out. Talk about him longingly in **your lunchroom** at work. **Dine with him each Lord's Day.** **Commune with him** every day.

2. Every day you must work and pray that your children will grab this promise God made to them at their baptism – that Jesus will wash away their sins if they put their trust in him.

And in doing so, that the condemnation for their inherited sins might be removed.

Every day work and pray God might rescue that person whom you love but is outside of Christ's kingdom – that spouse, co-worker, or friend. You have right of access because you are Christ's child. **Use your privileges for good** and advance Christ's cause.

3. Be patient with your sinful parents. They are getting cleaned-out just as you are, day by day, a little at a time.

Finally: If you are not a Christian, don't be overwhelmed by sin. Jesus took a valley of dry bones and gave them life. If you ask him to give you life, he will give you a new heart, and new record, and a new life.