

The Heidelberg Catechism (1879)

Lord's Day — III

(Que. & Ans. 6 — 8)

Question 6: **Did God then create man so wicked and perverse?**

Answer: By no means, but God created man good, and after his own image (Gen 1:27)¹, in righteousness and true holiness (Eph 4:24)² that he might rightly know God his Creator, heartily love him (Col 3:10)³ and live with him in eternal happiness, to glorify and praise him (Isa 43:7)⁴.

Question 7: **Whence then proceeds this depravity of human nature?**

Answer: From the fall and disobedience of our first parents, Adam and Eve, in Paradise (Rom 5:12)⁵; hence our nature is become so corrupt, that we are all conceived and born in sin (John 3:6)⁶.

Question 8: **Are we then so corrupt that we are wholly incapable of doing any good, and inclined to all wickedness?**

Answer: Indeed we are (Rom 7:18)⁷; except we are regenerated by the Spirit of God (John 3:3).⁸

¹ Gen 1:21

² Ecc 7:29

³ 1 Chron 28:9; Rev 22:14

⁴ Pro 16:4; 1 Cor 10:31; Ps 16:11

⁵ 1 Cor 15:22; Matt 7:18; Gen 3:1-6

⁶ Ps 51:5; 53:1; Rom 3:9-12; Job 14:4; Gen 8:21

⁷ 2 Cor 3:5; Gen 6:5; Job 15:16

⁸ John 3:5-6; Jer 13:23; Eph 2:4-5