



HOLY TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

First Principles, Week #8

What Happens When Human Reason Seeks to Usurp God's Word?

*Bio and introduction to be distributed at a later date*

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## CHAPTER 8

# TOTAL DEPRAVITY AND BUSINESS ETHICS

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If the Bible teaches anything clearly, it is the reality of sin. That is the dark side of the clarity of Scripture, confessed by the Protestant Reformers—its unsparing portrayal of human sinfulness. From beginning to end, Genesis 3 through Revelation 22, the Bible documents the full range of sin and its consequences.

Sin is rebellion against God. (1) Specifically, human sin is *lawlessness* (see 1 John 3:4)—violation of God's law, prideful disobedience of the revealed will of God, the Creator, on the part of the creature made in His image and for His service. (2) Sin is *universal* ("There is no one righteous, not even one" and "all have sinned" [Rom. 3:10,23; cf. 1:18-3:10]); every human being is born a sinner ("Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me" [Ps. 51:5]). (3) Sin is also *intensive* or integral, its corrupting impulse resident at the core of human personality ("For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander" [Matt. 15:19]). (4) The character of sin as transgression involves *guilt* (e.g., Rom. 5:12ff.) as well as corruption. (5) The ultimate punishment on the condemnation sin deserves from God, in fidelity to His holiness and righteousness, is *death*—eternal death