

# Does the Bible Teach That I Am Predisposed to Sin?

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

## Introduction:

- A. "Am I predisposed to sin? Was I born without the ability to resist temptation? Did God design me in such a way that it is inevitable that I will sin?"
1. We are not morally predisposed to sin, but we can be physically predisposed in that we may have a particular weakness or vulnerability that is stronger in us than in others that must be overcome, just as they must overcome any other weakness, vulnerability, or temptation that is especially strong in them.
  2. One in eight people who take their first taste of alcohol will become alcoholics; they are especially vulnerable; however, it is not inevitable that they become alcoholics
  3. 1 in 10 men experiment with homosexuality, but only 1 in 50 choose to be gay; 1 in 5 women experiment, but only 1 in 20 become lesbians. Some persons are more vulnerable to it than others, but it is not inevitable that they become so
  4. Similar numbers occur in drug abuse, propensity toward rage and violence, and other sinful or self-destructive behaviors
- B. Some posit a theory of genetic predisposition in an attempt to justify sin
1. Although the theory of genetic predisposition is propagated as scientific fact by some people in the media, there are many scientists who oppose this theory, besides the fact that it contradicts the Bible.
  2. To believe that God created me in such a way that I cannot resist sin is an indictment against God Himself
  3. How do we answer the question: "Am I predisposed to sin?"

## I. GOD IS NOT A RESPECTER OF PERSONS

A. Rom. 2:11; Col. 3:25; James 2:1, 9; 1Peter 1:17

1. God does not favor one man over another. He does not make one man sin, and another man not sin. If He did, He would favor one man over another.

## II. GOD IS LOVE; HE DOES NOT COMMAND THINGS WE CANNOT DO

A. 1John 4:7-16; Eph. 2:4-8

1. God does not require us to do something that He's made impossible through genetic predisposition. If He did, God would be hateful and evil.
2. God forbids drunkenness. Since He issued this command, He does not create people to be alcoholics, making it impossible for them to keep His command.
3. God forbids the sin of homosexuality. Since He issued this command, He does not create people destined to be homosexuals, making it impossible for them to obey His command.

### **III. GOD IS JUST; HE DOES NOT COMMAND THE IMPOSSIBLE**

- A. Rom. 3:26 - If God genetically predisposed certain men to certain sins, He can't require abstinence from that conduct, because He is a just God.
  - 1. Since God condemns sins, principles of justice demand that we conclude it's impossible for God to genetically predispose anyone to inevitably commit sin.

### **IV. SIN RESULTS FROM UNRESTRAINED LUST, NOT GENETIC PREDISPOSITION**

- A. James 1:13-15
  - 1. We are not born with a sinful orientation; rather, we adopt sinful orientations after we lust after sinful things and give into our desires.

### **V. GOD WANTS EVERYONE TO BE SAVED; HE DOES NOT MAKE ANYONE SIN**

- A. 2Peter 3:9; 1Tim. 2:4
  - 1. Since God wants everyone to be saved and go to heaven, He would never genetically predispose a person to sin, and then ordain that sinners cannot inherit the kingdom of God. If this were the case, the Scriptures would be lying.
- B. If we believe God and His word, we must conclude that God would never genetically predispose a person to sin.
  - 1. Either the media is wrong about genetic predisposition, or God is wrong. Who will we believe?

### **VI. GOD WANTS US TO SEEK AND GLORIFY HIM**

- A. Acts 17:26-28 - God created the human race in such a way that we would naturally and morally be predisposed to seek Him.
- B. If we are to become as little children in order to enter the Kingdom, then genetic predisposition is a false theory - Matt. 18:2-3
  - 1. The fact that we must be converted and become morally as pure as we were at birth clearly indicates that we are not genetically predisposed to sin. If we were, Jesus' teaching would be meaningless and erring.
- C. Become as little children by putting on the new man - Eph. 4:22-23
  - 1. Each individual is born with a moral spirit predisposed to seek and glorify God
- D. Humankind walks in sin because of hearts hardened against the word of God, not because of genetic predisposition
  - 1. Rom. 1:18; Eph. 4:17-21

#### **Conclusion:**

- A. Scripture teaches us that God morally predisposes humankind to seek and glorify Him. He does not genetically predispose us to sinful behaviors.
- B. He created an environment whereby we cannot be tempted beyond what we are able to bear - 1Cor. 10:13
- C. People who affirm that God genetically predisposes some people to sinful behavior and therefore to hell, paint a picture of a cruel, unloving God who desires men to be lost.