

Does the Bible Teach That I Am Predisposed to Sin?

Thursday Indepth Bible Class of the
Trilacoochee church of Christ - 5/27/21

“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?”
- We are not morally predisposed to sin, but we can be physically predisposed to be vulnerable to certain temptations.
- Some posit a theory of genetic predisposition in an attempt to justify sin.
- To believe that God created me in such a way that I cannot resist sin is an indictment against God.

God Is Not A Respector Of Persons

- Rom. 2:11 - “For there is no partiality with God.”
- Col. 3:25 - “But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.”
- James 2:1, 9 - “My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with partiality... 9 but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors”
- 1Peter 1:17 - “And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work...”

God Is Love; He Does Not Command Things We Cannot Do

- 1John 4:7-11 - “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”

God Is Love; He Does Not Command Things We Cannot Do

- 1John 4:12-16 - “No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us. 13 By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. 14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world. 15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. 16 And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him”

God Is Love; He Does Not Command Things We Cannot Do

- Eph. 2:4-8 - “But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God”

God Is Just; He Does Not Command The Impossible

- Rom. 3:26 - “To demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.”

Sin Results From Unrestrained Lust, Not Genetic Predisposition

- James 1:13-15 - “Let no one say when he is tempted, I am tempted by God; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. 14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. 15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.”

God Wants Everyone To Be Saved; He Does Not Make Anyone Sin

- 2Peter 3:9 - “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”
- 1Tim. 2:4 - “Who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth”

God Wants Us To Seek And Glorify Him

- Acts 17:26-28 - “And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their pre-appointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, 27 so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; 28 for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, For we are also His offspring.”

God Wants Us To Seek And Glorify Him

- 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 - “Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, 3 and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.’”

God Wants Us To Seek And Glorify Him

- Be as little children by putting on the new man
 - Eph. 4:22-23 - “That you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, 23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.”

God Wants Us To Seek And Glorify Him

- Humankind walks in sin because of hearts hardened against the word of God, not because of genetic predisposition
 - Rom. 1:18 - “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness”

God Wants Us To Seek And Glorify Him

- Eph. 4:17-21 - “This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, 18 having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; 19 who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. 20 But you have not so learned Christ, 21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus”

God Wants Us To Seek And Glorify Him

- Scripture teaches that God morally predisposes humankind to seek and glorify Him. He does not genetically predisposition us to sinful behaviors. He created an environment whereby we cannot be tempted beyond what we are able to bear
 - 1Cor. 10:13 - “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”