

Ephesians 2:1-3
"The Way We Were"
Dr. Cliff McManis

Before God saved us, all of us were spiritually dead because of sin. Our depravity was comprehensive and chronic, extending to every facet of our lives—we were “totally depraved.”

Paul says we were spiritually dead because of our:

1. Sinful lifestyle —we were of the world.
"walked...according to the course of this world" (2:2a)
we "followed the ways of this world" [NIV]
2. Sinful lineage —we were pawns of the devil.
"according to the ruler of the power of the air" (2:2b)
3. Sinful desires —we indulged our lusts.
"we...lived in the lusts of our flesh" (2:3a)
"gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature" [NIV]

Total Depravity According to Scripture:

"Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of his heart was only evil continually" (Genesis 6:5)
"...there is no man who does not sin" (1 Kings 8:46)
"The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick" (Jeremiah 17:9)
"...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23)
"...we all stumble in many ways" (James 3:2)
"If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us" (1 John 1:8)

4. Sinful actions —we lived disobedient lives.
"sons of disobedience" (2:2c)
"indulging the desires of the flesh" (2:3b)
"following its desires" [NIV]

5. Sinful thoughts —we were totally self-centered.
"indulging the desires...of the mind" (2:3b)
"following...its thoughts" [NIV]

6. Sinful nature —we inherited at conception.
"were by nature children of wrath" (2:3b)

A Concise Hamartiological Index:

Sin: A violation of God's perfect, holy Law or character in thought, word or deed.
Hamartiology: The study or doctrine of sin; from *hamartia* (sin, to fall short)
Hamartia: The common Greek NT word for "sin" which meant "to fall short" or "to miss the mark"—as when shooting an arrow at a target.
Total Depravity: The biblical teaching declaring that all humans are tainted by sin in every facet and faculty of their being, thus rendering them spiritually unresponsive to God and utterly unable to improve their lost condition.
Original Sin: The sin nature inherited from Adam.
Traducianism: The doctrine that the soul (with its sin nature), equally with the body, is produced and begotten by the parents