

# DO YOU AGREE WITH JESUS?

## QUESTION: Are children born in sin?

Most within the religious world have been taught the doctrine of original sin. The idea is that the sin of Adam passes to each generation at birth. John Calvin formulated his system of faith with this doctrine of children being born in sin. This belief system is often referred to as Calvin's tulip (**T** [total hereditary depravity], **U** [unconditional election], **L** [limited atonement], **I** [irresistible grace], **P** [perseverance of the saints]). Although Calvin is not the one to originate these ideas (Augustine initially formulated these ideas), he did make them popular. Every doctrine that he subsequently taught was contingent upon his belief that children were born in sin. Is this a Bible doctrine? What does Jesus say about this idea?

In teaching about the nature of his kingdom, Jesus said, "Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:3). Those who will be a part of the kingdom of Christ, the church (Matthew 16:18-19), must be childlike in attitude and heart. Why would Jesus use a little child as an object lesson concerning the nature of those who would inhabit his kingdom if children are born totally depraved? Must man then be totally depraved in order to enter into the kingdom of heaven? Such thinking is utter foolishness! Jesus used a child because they are innocent, humble, trusting and forgiving. If man would be a part of the kingdom of God's dear Son, then he must attain and maintain a heart of innocence, having been cleansed in the blood of Christ and seeking to live according to the will of God each day. Ezekiel makes it abundantly clear that children are not born in sin: "The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father..." (Ezekiel 18:20).

Do you have a question that you would like for us to consider together, or a comment regarding what has been written? If so, please email us at [sixthavenue@bellsouth.net](mailto:sixthavenue@bellsouth.net), or write to us at the Sixth Avenue Church of Christ, 1501 Sixth Avenue, Jasper, Alabama, 35501.