

## Doctrine of the Natural State of Man

1. The plight of the natural man is clearly set forth in *Scripture*.
  - The natural man has a **heart** that is deceitful, desperately wicked and loves evil. *Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? John 3:19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.*
  - The natural man has a **mind** without spiritual understanding. *Ephesians 4:17 This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, 18 Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: 19 Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.*
  - The natural man has an **imagination** that is corrupt and evil. *Genesis 8:21 “ ...for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth...”*
  - The natural man has spiritual **eyes** that are blinded. *Ephesians 5:8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:*
  - The natural man has spiritual **ears** that are deaf. *Psalms 58:3 The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies. 4 Their poison is like the poison of a serpent: they are like the deaf adder that stoppeth her ear;*
  - The natural man has **lying lips**. *Matthew 15:8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.*
  - The natural man has **feet** that are swift to do mischief. *Proverbs 6:16 These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: 17 A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, 18 An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,*
  - The natural man has no **life principle** being dead. *Ephesians 2:1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;*
2. The state of the natural man continues to be described in a negative manner. The unconverted are declared to be children of the devil and under his control.
  - *John 8:44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.*

3. Any person left in such a state is not only unable to repent but also unwilling. Such individuals have no innate ability to believe the gospel or to come to Christ. They have no capacity to love God. They do not want to love God.
  - *Romans 3:11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. 12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.*
4. The natural state of a person leaves them with no inclination to prepare themselves for salvation.
  - *Job 14:4 Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? The divine answer is, "No one".*
  - *Jeremiah 13:23 Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil.*
5. Jesus stated the total inability of a person to be different.
  - *John 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.*
6. Because of the total inability of the natural person to do good before God due to a state of inner corruption, the unconverted must receive the mercy of God if there is to be salvation.