

## Doctrine of the Soul

### Traducianism

1. Traducianism is the theological concept that the soul is transferred in the act of procreation.
2. Supporters of traducianism present arguments from Jewish culture and the *Bible* to support this concept.
  - Semitic Totality Concept. It is a Jewish belief the *Bible* teaches the body, the material aspect of man, and soul are a unity. Therefore the body and soul of the individual must begin simultaneously.
  - In the act of procreation individuals are begotten. Begetting includes the image and likeness of God (Genesis 5:3). Since God is spirit, this must mean the immaterial aspect of man. Therefore, the spirit of man must be transferred in the same seed that germinates and produces the body.
  - God's creation is *finished* which means that no new souls are created directly, but are instead transmitted by natural generation just as the body is. *Genesis 2:2 And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.*
  - God created all things "*very good*" (Genesis 1:31), yet the Bible teaches that after the fall, all are sinful at birth and indeed from conception. Since God would not have created something sinful, it follows that souls are not created directly but are generated.
    - ❖ *Job 14:1-4 Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble. 2 He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not. 3 And dost thou open thine eyes upon such an one, and bringest me into judgment with thee? 4 Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? Not one.*
    - ❖ *Psalms 58:3 The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies.*
    - ❖ *John 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.*
    - ❖ *Psalms 51:5 Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.*
  - Genesis 46:26 teaches that souls are already present in the loins. *Genesis 46:26 All the souls that came with Jacob into Egypt, which came out of his loins, besides Jacob's sons' wives, all the souls were threescore and six;*
  - Other verses said to imply traducianism are Ps. 51:5, Romans 5:12 and Hebrews 7:10;

- ❖ *Psalms 51:5 Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.*
- ❖ *Romans 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:*
- ❖ *Hebrews 7:10 For he [Levi] was yet in the loins of his father, when Melchisedec met him [Abraham].*

3. Those who have supported traducianism include the following impressive list.

- Tertullian
- Eastern Orthodox Church
- Gregory of Nyssa
- Many in the early Western church
- The Lutheran Church
- Augustus H. Strong (Baptist)
- W.G.T. Shedd (Presbyterian)
- Gordon Clark (theologian)

4. Many theologians, especially the Reformed, are creationists.