

Doctrine of Traducianism

1. In Christian theology, traducianism is a doctrine about the origin of the soul (or synonymously, "spirit"), in one of the biblical uses, this word means the immaterial aspect of human beings.
 - *Genesis 35:18 And it came to pass, as her soul was in departing, (for she died) that she called his name Ben-oni: but his father called him Benjamin.*
 - *Matthew 10:28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*
2. Traducianism means that this immaterial aspect is transmitted through natural generation along with the body, the material aspect of human beings.
3. That is, an individual's soul is derived from the souls of the individual's parents.
4. This implies that only the soul of Adam was created directly by God (with Eve's substance, material and immaterial, being taken from out of Adam), in contrast with creationism (not to be confused with creationism as a belief about the origin of the material universe), which holds that all souls are created directly by God (with Eve's substance, material and immaterial, being taken from out of Adam).
5. Supporters of traducianism present arguments from the Bible such as the following:
 - Begetting includes the image and likeness of God, but since God is spirit, this must mean the immaterial aspect of human beings. *Genesis 5:3 And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, after his image; and called his name Seth:*
 - God's creation is finished (Genesis 2:2), thus 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.*
 - Creationism destroys the idea of the miraculous and supernatural, since it incorporates God's supernatural, miraculous creation of the soul (out of nothing) into the natural process of reproduction. This is inherently contradictory, since it makes that which is against natural law a part of nature: it is against natural law that something is created out of nothing.
 - God created all things "very good", yet many Christians understand the Bible to teach that after the fall, all are sinful at birth and from conception.

Original Creation was Good. *Genesis 1:31 And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.*

Original Sin. *Job 14:1 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.*

- ❖ *Job 15:14 What is man, that he should be clean? And he which is born of a woman, that he should be righteous?*
- ❖ *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.*

Corruption at Conception. *Psalms 51:5 Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.*

- ❖ Since most theologians hold that God would not have created something sinful, it follows that souls are not created directly but are generated.
- ❖ Though God is outside of physical time and space and therefore is not constrained by physical laws.
- ❖ It is possible for God to create a soul that simultaneously takes on a fallen nature, much like He can create a soul that simultaneously is prevented from taking on a fallen nature, see The Immaculate Conception.
- Genesis 46:26 can be understood to teach that souls are already present in the loins, and Hebrews 7:10 ("When Melchizedek met Abraham, Levi was still in the body of his ancestor.") seems to take this view.
 - ❖ *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;*
 - ❖ *Hebrews 7:10 For he was yet in the loins of his father, when Melchisedec met him.*
- In Genesis 6, some interpreters see the traducian model as the best explanation for the begetting of monstrous offspring with human bodies and demonic souls by the angels that took wives of the daughters of men. The soul-creationist's difficulty of God creating souls for such monsters may be why most later churchmen rejected the literal interpretation of Genesis 6 as referring to angels interbreeding with human women.

6. Traducianism was initially

- developed by Tertullian and arguably
- propagated by Augustine of Hippo, and has been

- endorsed by Gregory of Nyssa, Anastasius Sinaita, Hilary of Poitiers, Ambrose of Milan, many in the early Catholic Church),
 - various Lutheran churches, and some modern theologians such as
 - Augustus H. Strong (Baptist), W. G. T. Shedd and Gordon Clark (Presbyterian), Lewis Sperry Chafer, Millard Erickson, Norman L. Geisler, Robert Culver, and Robert L. Reymond.
7. Most Evangelical theologians [clarification needed], especially the Reformed, are creationists.[citation needed].
 8. Opponents of traducianism are sometimes found in the pro-life movement, because many among those who hold to pro-life views are of the opinion that embryos have a soul and are to be fully recognized as persons. However, such opposition is without cause, as traducianism requires that the soul be present in the child from conception.
 9. Some Reformed Christians object to this view saying that if the father of the child is regenerate, then the soul of the child would also be regenerate which obscures the doctrine of original sin.
 10. The Charismatic Movement also generally supports the idea that the Holy Spirit is creator of every individual soul, citing the traditional hymn *Veni Creator Spiritus* as evidence that Christians have long invoked the divine soul-making properties of the Spirit. In opposition, the creator might simply refer to God as the earliest creator of Universe as a whole.
 11. *John 5:17 But Jesus answered them, "My Father is still working, so I am working, too* indicating that God is still at work giving life at the time Jesus' words are spoken. But working can simply have the meaning that God is simply working for the salvation of mankind. In its origin it was an allusion to the Jewish belief that God remained actively working in the Universe even after its creation and does not necessarily mean soul creation.