

III. THE ORIGINAL STATE OF MANKIND

A. The Image of God In Mankind

1. Statements of the doctrine

The French Confession of Faith (AD. 1559), Article 9, states:

We believe that man was created pure and perfect in the image of God, and that by his own guilt he fell from the grace which he received, and is thus alienated from God, the fountain of justice and of all good, so that his nature is totally corrupt. And being blinded in mind, and depraved in heart, he has lost all integrity, and there is no good in him. And although he can still discern good and evil, we say, notwithstanding, that the light he has becomes darkness when he seeks for God, so that he can in nowise approach him by his intelligence and reason. And although he has a will that incites him to do this or that, yet is altogether captive to sin, so that he has no other liberty to do right than that which God gives him.

The Scotch Confession of Faith (A.D. 1560), Article 2, states:

We confesse and acknowledge this our God to have created man, to wit, our first father Adam, to his awin image and similitude, to whome he gave wisdome, lordship, justice, free wil, and cleir knowledge of himselfe, so that in the hail nature of man there culd be noted no imperfectioun.

The Belgic Confession (A.D. 1561), Article 14, states:

We believe that God created man out of the dust of the earth, and made and formed him after his own image and likeness, good, righteous, and holy, capable in all things to will agreeably to the will of God. But being in honor, he understood it not, neither knew his excellency, but willfully subjected himself to sin, and consequently to death and the curse, giving ear to the words of the devil. For the commandment of life, which he had received, he transgressed; and by sin separated himself from God, who was his true life, having corrupted his whole nature, whereby he made himself liable to corporal and spiritual death. And being thus become wicked, perverse, and corrupt in all his ways, he hath lost all his excellent gifts which he had received from God, and only retained a few remains thereof, which, however, are sufficient to leave man without excuse; for all the light which is in us is changed into darkness, as the Scriptures teach us, saying: The light shineth in darkness, and the darkness comprehendeth it not: where St. John calleth men darkness.

The Heidelberg Catechism (A.D. 1563), Question 6, states:

Q. Did God create man thus wicked and perverse?