

# Knowing Our True Identity

As we seek to find answers for the events around us, we wonder about the nature of humanity. At our core, are we naturally good or prone to evil? More personally, our individual identity is intricately connected to our feelings of self-confidence and belonging, which leads us to ask: Who am I? What shapes my identity? Join Groundwork as we explore the nature of humanity through scripture to discover our true identity and learn the biblical foundations for our Christian belief that humans are both children of God created in his image and sinners in need of a savior.

**AWARENESS** Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- What would you say your church teaches about human nature? Does it teach that humans are basically good or basically evil?
- Is what your church teaches about human nature the same or different than the message you hear from secular culture about the nature of humanity?



**LISTEN TO THE EPISODE:** [Knowing Our True Identity](#)

**READ** [Genesis 1:27](#), [Psalm 8](#), [Acts 17:24-28](#), [Romans 3:9-20](#)

**REFLECTION** After listening, consider the following questions:

- Does knowing that you're made in God's image affect how you view yourself? Does it make it easier to recognize God's image in other people? Are there particular people or groups of people you struggle to see God's image in? What could you do to help cultivate your ability to see them with God's eyes?
- In the [Canons of Dort](#), a Reformed theological document from the 1600s, it says: "Therefore, all people are conceived in sin and are born children of wrath, unfit for any saving good, inclined to evil, dead in their sins, and slaves to sin; without the grace of the regenerating Holy Spirit they are neither willing nor able to return to God, to reform their distorted nature, or even to dispose themselves to such reform" (Canons of Dort, Third and Fourth Main Points of Doctrine, Article 3). How does the distinction between good and "saving good" in this quote help us understand how people we see as nice or good can also be totally depraved?
- How does the above quote further clarify the point host Scott Hoezee makes about understanding the meaning of "total" in the term "total depravity" as touching every part of life and not as complete?
- Read [Romans 7:21-25](#). How does this passage contribute to your understanding of being both a sinner in need of a savior and a redeemed child of God? Does it give you hope for humanity? Why or why not?

- At the close of segment 3, host Dave Bast discusses how we tend to give ourselves “the benefit of the doubt.” He observes that often we find this easier to do for our own behavior than for the behavior of others. Where might you need to practice extending the benefit of the doubt to others?

## **RELATED PASSAGES** for further study

[Genesis 3](#), [Romans 7](#)

## **CONCLUSION**

In segment 3, Dave and Scott affirm that sanctification is a process. We continue to grow in faith, become more Christlike, and die to our old self for our entire lifetime.

Where are you at in this process? Reflect and think about the ways you’ve grown in faith already and the areas of your life that still need growth. When you pray, acknowledge your humanity and depravity, but focus on your salvation and desire to become more like Jesus. Then receive assurance from the Apostle Paul:

*“May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it”* ([1 Thessalonians 5:23-24](#)).

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