**Free Will and Total Depravity**

**Introduction:**

**Augustine and Pelagius**

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| **Pelagianism** | **Semi-Pelagianism** | **Orthodoxy** |

**The Big Picture on Free Will and Total Depravity:**

1. Humans were created with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ freedom and freedom \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. Fallen humanity\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ moral (true) freedom, but \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ freedom of

choice. This is called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ humans have regained a measure of moral (true) freedom and

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ freedom of choice.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_humans will be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in moral (true) freedom and will

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_freedom of choice.

**The Big Picture:**

* **T** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* **U** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* **L** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* **I** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* **P** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Free Will and the Bible’s story:**[[1]](#footnote-1)

1. **Humans were created with moral (true) freedom and freedom of choice.**
	1. Augustine: Able to\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, able not to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (*posse peccare, posse non peccare*).[[2]](#footnote-2)
		1. **Gen 1:26-27**
		2. **Ecclesiastes 7:29**
		3. **Colossians 3:9-10**
		4. **Ephesians 4:22-24**
			1. **WSC 10**: How did God create man? A. God created man, male and female, after his own image, in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness, with dominion over the creatures.
2. **Fallen humanity lost moral (true) freedom, but retained freedom of choice. This is called Total Depravity.**
	1. Augustine: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ able to not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(*non posse non peccare*).
	2. **Romans 5:19a (also 5:12ff).**
	3. **Man is unrighteous and unholy, therefore he cannot will what is right:**
		1. **Jeremiah 17:9**
		2. **Psalm 53:1-3 and Romans 3:9-20**
		3. **John 6:37,44**
		4. **Ephesians 2:1-3**
	4. John Hendrix, "The fact that no man can choose to live a sinless life is proof positive that he has no free will. He is held captive under the yoke of sin and thus he sins willingly and of necessity ... and he cannot do otherwise."
	5. **Man is corrupted in knowledge and cannot choose what is right:**
		1. **Romans 1:18**
		2. **Romans 8:5-8**
		3. **Colossians 1:21**
		4. **2 Corinthians 4:3-4**
	6. **Definition of Total Depravity:** Although fallen persons are capable of externally good acts (acts that are good for society), they cannot do anything really good, i.e., pleasing to God (Rom. 8:8). God, however, looks on the heart. And from his ultimate standpoint, fallen man has no goodness, in thought, word, or deed. He is therefore incapable of contributing anything to his salvation. –John Frame

Total Depravity has to do with the **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** to which sin corrupts man, not the **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**.

1. Outline for this section was taken and expanded from: Robert A. Peterson, *Election and Free Will: God’s Gracious Choice and Our Responsibility* (P & R Publishing, 2007), 125-154. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Quotes and content referring to Augustine were obtained here: Hendrix, John, “Augustine’s Doctrine of the Bondage of the Will”, n.d., n.p. Online: http://www.monergism.com/thethreshold/articles/onsite/augustinewill.html. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)