**Free will and total Depravity**

*What about the Redeemed?*

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

1. Humans were created with moral (true) freedom and freedom of choice.
2. Fallen humanity lost moral (true) freedom, but retained freedom of choice. This is called Total Depravity.
3. Redeemed humans have regained a measure of moral (true) freedom and retained freedom of choice.
4. Glorified humans will be perfected in moral (true) freedom and will retain freedom of choice.

**Redeemed humans have regained a measure of moral (true) freedom and retained freedom of choice.**

* 1. Augustine: (*posse non peccare*)
  2. We are delivered through the work of Jesus Christ and freed from sins power, and the guilt of sin, but the indwelling corruption of sin remains.
     1. Freed from sin’s power:
        1. **Colossians 1:13-14**
        2. **John 8:31-38**

“Though it is God who restores our true freedom in the redemptive process, the exercise of that freedom also involves human responsibility…to begin with, then, human beings must turn to Christ in faith in order to receive true freedom. Though they cannot turn to Christ apart from the enabling power of the Holy Spirit, yet they must so turn…the continued exercise of our true freedom also involves our responsibility…we cannot live as free men and women without God’s help, but nevertheless we must do so. Our true freedom is not only a gift; it is a task.[[1]](#footnote-1)

* + - 1. **Philippians 2:12-13**
      2. **Colossians 3:1-3**
      3. **Romans 6:1-14**
    1. We are freed from the guilt of sin:
       1. **Romans 5:1**
       2. **Romans 8:1**
       3. **Hebrews 10:19-25**
    2. The indwelling corruption of sin remains until our full redemption.
       1. **Romans 8:13** from John Owen’s, “The Mortification of Sin”

*“Do you mortify*

*do you make it your daily work*

*be always at it while you live*

*cease not a day from this work*

*be killing sin or it will be killing you”[[2]](#footnote-2)*

**Quote from Owen**:[[3]](#footnote-3) Your being dead with Christ virtually, your being quickened with him, will not excuse you from this work. And our savior tells us how his Father deals with every branch in him that bears fruit, every true and living branch. “He prurges it, that it may bring forth more fruit” (John 15:2). He prunes it, and that not for a day or two, but while the branch is in the world. And the Apostle tells you what was his practice: “I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection” (1 Cor. 9:27). “I do it,” he says, “daily; it is the work of my life: I omit it not; this is my business.” And if this were the work and business of Paul, who was so incomparably exalted in grace, revelations, enjoyments, privileges, consolations, above the ordinary measure of believers, where may we possibly [find a basis] for an exemption from this work and duty while we are in this world?

* 1. **6 reasons from Owen for taking on the duty of mortification:[[4]](#footnote-4)**
     1. Indwelling sin always abides, therefore it must always be mortified.
        1. **Phil. 3:12**
        2. **2 Cor. 4:16**
        3. **2 Peter 3:18**
     2. Indwelling sin not only abides, but it is still active.
        1. **Gal. 5:17**
        2. **Hebrews 12:1**
     3. Indwelling sin in not only active, but will produce soul-destroying sins if not mortified.
        1. **Gal 5:19-21**
        2. **Hebrew 3:13**
     4. Indwelling sin is to be opposed by the Spirit and the new nature
        1. **Gal. 5:17**
        2. **2 Peter 1:4-5**
     5. The results of neglecting the mortification of indwelling sin.
        1. **Rev. 3:1-2**
        2. **Heb 3:13**
        3. **Ps 31:10**
        4. **Ps 40:12**
     6. It is our duty to perfect holiness in the fear of God and grow in grace everyday.
        1. **2 Cor. 7:1**
        2. **1 Pet. 2:2**
        3. **2 Cor 4:16**
  2. **The Holy Spirit is the great sovereign cause of the mortification of sin.**
     1. **“Means of Grace”**
        1. Word
        2. Sacraments
        3. Prayer

1. Peterson, *Election and Free Will,* 130. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. John Owen, Kelly M Kapic, and Taylor, *Overcoming Sin & Temptation* (Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books, 2006), 50. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Ibid, 50-57. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)