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- **Wanda Eternick**
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- **Linda Schwartz**
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- **Gladys Peter**
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- **Tammy Musser**
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APRIL

Hyperbole or Reality?

“The LORD saw how great man’s wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.” [Gen 6:5]



How could these 2 be evil?

When we read this verse from Genesis, we wonder whether God is speaking literally, (EVERY INCLINATION...ONLY EVIL...ALL THE TIME); or that he’s speaking in literary terms like hyperbole (exaggeration for effect) to emphasize how wicked man had become.

Our first reaction would be to think that this is hyperbole. I mean, how can every inclination always be evil? I know some really wonderful non Christians, who don’t wake up every morning dreaming up some kind of evil to perpetrate on the unsuspecting. And what about Christians? If every inclination of every human is evil all the time; that would say all Christians are also inherently evil all the time. And that can’t be true, because...well, WE’RE Christians.

The sinful nature in every human being wants to believe that deep down inside, there’s a little good in each of us—we just have to look harder in some than in others. But God is speaking here literally, from his perfect, holy perspective.

When Adam and Eve were first created in the ‘image of God’ they were completely and perfectly holy and in a perfect relationship with God. Every inclination and everything they did flowed from that perfection. But when they sinned the whole perspective changed. From that time forward, every inclination, every act flowed from a soul which had been infected by sin. And that is what God is literally talking about here.

Because mankind, since Adam & Eve’s fall, is inherently sinful, every inclination and every act, flows from a flawed (sinful) source—even if it is the most noble of good works. This is why we could never be saved by our own works.

How blessed we are to have Jesus Christ, who by his nature as God has not only kept the Law perfectly, but by that very nature in his attributes of perfection and holiness, his thoughts, words and actions have flowed from that perfection untainted by sin. He, as God and man in one person has granted us perfection and the results of his untainted life and payment through faith in him.

Thus, we, although still driven by that evil inclination within our human soul, have been cleansed by Christ so that we are able to please God. Not by the power of our deeds, but by the cleansing of the Christ. This is our joy at Eastertime and all throughout the year!

Rev. James A. Adomeit