

The Bulwark

MARCH 8, 2026

“CONVERTED AND BECOME LIKE CHILDREN”

Antonella Marchetti, a professor of developmental and emotional psychology, known for her work in children’s moral development recently was quoted as having said, “Morality is present even in the youngest children—and it is powerful.” The quote was linked to a 2025 study that showed that a moral code exists in children even before the onset of language. In short infants are born innocent, and not inherited totally depraved as a large swath of denominations advocate.

In the Westminster Confession of Faith, the following quote from chapter VI is found. “They being the root of all mankind, the guilt of this sin was imputed, and the same death in sin and corrupted nature conveyed to all their posterity, descending from them by ordinary generation. From this original corruption, whereby we are utterly indisposed, disabled, and made opposite to all good, and wholly inclined to all evil, do proceed all actual transgressions.” The “they” has reference to Adam and Eve. Therefore, based on this contention, all of mankind is born with the contagion of sin. This teaching is upheld in The Philadelphia Confession of Faith (Baptist), Augsburg Confession of Faith (Lutheran) as well as John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist Church who



wrote, “We are condemned before we have done good or evil, under the curse before we know what it is.” (*Sermons on Original Sin*, p. 340)

Calvinistic teaching on moral depravity flies in the very face of logic, as well as Bible teaching; it so refreshing to see others question such thinking from varying paradigms. Yet rising above all is the clarion voice of God as expressed through the prophet Ezekiel in chapter eighteen and verses two through four. “What do you mean by using this proverbs concerning the land of Israel saying, ‘The Fathers eat the sour grapes, but the children’s teeth are set on edge’? ‘As I live’, declares the Lord

God, ‘you are surely not going to use this proverbs in Israel any more. Behold all souls are Mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son are Mine. The soul who sins will die.’”

The operative is seen in “the soul who sins will die”. We are ushered into this world with a clean slate, it is up to us as to what gets put upon it. That is why in Matthew 18, Jesus as He called a child over to Him and said, “Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven.” (v 3) Why would Jesus say to be con-

verted and be like children if indeed children were born depraved? He wouldn’t. Paul on his part wrote, “Brethren, do not be children in your thinking; yet in evil be babes, but in your thinking be mature.” (1Corinthians 14:20)

Solomon as well shed some insight as he penned in the book of Ecclesiastes. “Truly, this only I have found: That God made man upright, but they have sought out many devices.” (7:29) Indeed mankind, but we begin this wonderful journey of life devoid of sin. The precious innocence of youth. “Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it.” (Proverbs 22:6) Let us realize the importance of empowering our children with proper instruction. (wbe)

A Publication of the Winnetka Ave. Church of Christ

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