Cheevers’s Commendation

“It would be difficult to find twelve consecutive pages in the English language, that contain such volumes of meaning, in such beautiful and instructive lessons, with such heavenly imagery, in so pure and sweet a style, and with so thrilling an appeal to the best affections of the heart, as these pages descriptive of Christian’s sojourn in the House of the Interpreter.”

- G.B. Cheever, D.D.
Images for the Journey

1. A picture of a very serious person hanging on the wall
2. A very large parlor that was full of dust
3. Passion and Patience
4. A fire burning against a wall
5. A beautiful, stately palace
6. The man in the cage
7. The man who dreamed about the final judgment
“Then Interpreter took him by the hand and led him into a very large parlor that was full of dust, because it had never been swept. After he had looked over the room a little while, Interpreter called for a man to sweep the floor. But when he began to sweep, the dust flew everywhere, and Christian was choking.”
• The **parlor** is the heart of a man who was never sanctified by the sweet grace of the gospel.

• The **dust** is his **original sin** and all the inner corruptions of the heart that have defiled the whole man.
Dust: Three Vital Truths

1. The dust represents or is an emblem of original sin.
2. The dust represents all the inner corruptions of the heart.
3. Original sin and all the inner corruptions of the heart have defiled the whole man.
The difference between the almost right word & the right word is really a large matter - it's the difference between the lightning bug and the lightning.
Being More Precise

“These aspects of sin with which we have been dealing need to be guarded and emphasized. We may find a great deal of emphasis upon the undesirability of sin, the unfortunateness, the odiousness, ugliness, disgustingness, even filthiness of sin, without any truly Christian assessment of sin as lawlessness, pollution and guilt.”

John Murray
1898-1975
• **Larger Catechism Q. 25:** “Wherein consisteth the sinfulness of that estate whereinto man fell?

• **A:** The sinfulness of that estate whereinto man fell, consisteth in the guilt of Adam’s first sin, the want of that righteousness wherein he was created, and the corruption of his nature, whereby he is utterly indisposed, disabled, and made opposite unto all that is spiritually
good, and wholly inclined to all evil, and that continually; which is commonly called Original Sin, and from which do proceed all actual transgressions.”
“By this sin they fell from their original righteousness and communion with God, and so became dead in sin, and wholly defiled in all the parts and faculties of soul and body. 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.”
Original Sin

• The effects of Adam’s sin were not confined to himself, but were transmitted to all of his descendants. This is the doctrine of Original Sin.

• Total Depravity refers to the extent of sin rather than to its intensity. Sin affects the entire person – body and soul (mind, heart, emotions, and volition or will).
The effects of original sin are guilt and pollution.

Guilt means liability to punishment. Guilt is seen in relation to the law of God and its sanctions.

Pollution of sin is our corrupted nature.

Inability means that we are powerless to overcome the sinfulness of our hearts and lives and put ourselves right with God.
“Original sin does not refer primarily to the first or original sin committed by Adam and Eve. Original sin refers to the result of the first sin – the corruption of the human race. Original sin refers to the fallen condition in which we are born.”
“Original sin has contaminated and defiled our virgin nature. It was death among the Romans to poison the springs. Original sin has poisoned the spring of our nature, it has turned beauty into leprosy; it has turned the azure brightness of our souls into midnight darkness.”
The Nature of Sin

1. **Sin is a real evil**, a positive something as opposed to any view of sin that regards it as negation (a denial of something), privation (being deprived of something), or limitation (i.e., not just the absence of something).

2. **Sin is a specific evil**. Disease, calamity, and death are evils, but are the consequences of sin. Sin is more expansive in meaning.
The Nature of Sin

3. **Sin is moral evil.** It is falling short of moral imperative. It is a violation of the category of *ought*; it is wrong; it ought not to be.

4. **Sin is a violation of law.** The word *ought* can have no meaning apart from a rule or standard of right. Morality is obedience to law.
The Nature of Sin

5. **Sin is a violation of God’s Law.** The law that sin violates is God’s law. God’s law proceeds from the authority of God. “The law of God is simply the expression or transcript of his moral perfection for the regulation of thought and life consonant with his perfection” (Murray). Abrogate (repeal) law and we abrogate sin.
The Nature of Sin

6. God’s law is pervasive. We owe devotion to God in every phase and department of life.

7. Sin is violation of divine law. The standards by which sin is to be judged are not variable.

8. Sin involves pollution, which refers to the depravity of disposition and character. Man is totally unholy and falls short of God’s standard, which is perfection.
9. Sin involves guilt. Guilt involves demerit (deserving of punishment) and the judgment of demerit (the punishment of demerit). As a sinner, I deserve punishment and judgment, whether I receive it or not).

10. Wrath against sin is the correlate of his holiness, which means the justice of God demands that sin receive its retribution.
“Nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we may be justified by faith in Christ, and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law shall no flesh be justified.”
Inability

• Our own depravity is humanly irremediable (cannot be cured or corrected). Man is totally unable to change his character or act in a way that is different from it.

• This inability means that, in sin, man is totally unable to discern, love, or choose the things that are well pleasing to God.

• Those in the flesh cannot please God.
“No one can come to Me, unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.”
“Then Interpreter spoke to a young lady who was standing nearby, ‘Bring in some water and sprinkle the room.’ When she did that, it was easily swept and cleaned.”
Jonathan Edwards

“In this Christ appears gloriously above the corruption and wickedness of the heart; above its natural darkness in dispelling it and letting in light, and above its enmity and opposition, by prevailing over it, drawing it powerfully and irresistibly to Himself, and turning a heart of stone into a heart of flesh. He is above the obstinacy and perverseness of the will by making them willing in the day of His power.”
“In this He appears above all their lusts. For all sin is mortified in this work, and the soul is delivered from the power and dominion of it. In this work the grace gloriously triumphs over men’s guilt. He comes over the mountains of their sins and visits them with His salvation.”

- Jonathan Edwards, from his sermon “Christ Exalted” (Cited by Tom Wood, Church Multiplication Ministries)
“Then Interpreter took him by the hand and led him (Christian) into a very large parlor that was full of dust, because it had never been swept. After he had looked over the room a little while, Interpreter called for a man to sweep the floor. But when he began to sweep, the dust flew everywhere, and Christian was choking.”
“Then Interpreter spoke to a young lady who was standing nearby, ‘Bring in some water and sprinkle the room.’ When she did that, it was easily swept and cleaned.”
“And the Law came in that the transgression might increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, that, as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”