



GOD WEIGHS THE HEART

GENESIS 6:5



GENESIS: THE FOUNDATION FOR EVERYTHING

*“And I will put enmity between you and the **woman**, and between your seed and **her** seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise Him on the heel.”*
(Gen. 3:15)

The woman’s seed is a “**He**”—**He** [Jesus] shall bruise **you** [Satan] on the head, and **you** [Satan] shall bruise **Him** [Jesus] on the heel.”

“And here is the valuable role of women that Satan hates: one of them would bear the One who would doom him.” *(Jonathan Sarfati)*

“The promise and the threat are both clear and obscure. It left the serpent in the dark about **which woman** should give birth to the Seed of the woman, so that he had to think of **every woman** as (possibly) becoming the mother of the blessed Seed (Christ). On the other hand, it gave our first parents (Adam and Eve) great faith that from that very hour **they expected a Savior.**”
(Martin Luther)

This satanic lewdness came to **define** society, so that it progressively **dehumanized** and **enslaved** them to their deceitful, degrading desires. The people were drunk with lust from **greedy** hearts.

Genesis 6:5 not only shows us God's view of how bad it really was, but the verse also gives us the **theological foundation** for how God weighs, or how He alone is able to judge, the thoughts/intentions of the heart.

- I. The Sinfulness of Society (Gen. 6:1-4)
- II. **The Sagacity of God** (Gen. 6:5)

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The assessment of God is **always true** (Gen. 6:5)

Sagacity = “A readiness of apprehension; discriminative intelligence; acute practical judgment.” (*source*)

It is the quality of being wise, discerning and sound in judgment.

II. The Sagacity of God (Gen. 6:5)

The assessment of God is **always true** (Gen. 6:5)

“... The judgments of the Lord are true: they are righteous altogether.” (Ps. 19:9)

- **“true”** = faithful, sure, firm, reliable

“Righteous art Thou, O Lord, And upright are Thy judgments.” (Ps. 119:137)

- **“upright”** = straight, correct, fitting, proper

II. The Sagacity of God (Gen. 6:5)

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God's accurate evaluation of mankind was based on two things that He, Himself, observed about them.

1. Their **outer** wickedness:

*“Then the Lord **saw** that the **wickedness** of man was **great** on the earth...”*

This emphasizes their **behavioral** sins. The “*wickedness of man*” refers primarily to **lifestyles**. God literally saw their evil in how they were living.

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*“For the ways of a man are before the eyes of the Lord, and He watches **all** his paths.”* (Prov. 5:21 NASB)

*“The eyes of the Lord are in **every** place, watching the evil and the good.”* (Prov. 15:3 (NASB))

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How God defines this great wickedness:

1. It is the **wholesale abandonment** of all godly constraints and values.
2. It is the **prideful violation** of God's boundaries for human existence.
3. It is the **total disregard** for God and His ways.

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God's second observation about mankind:

2. Their **inner** evil:

*"...and that every intent of the **thoughts of his heart** was only evil **continually.**"*

This refers to the **root** of behavioral iniquity, or the **cause** of all this wicked living. God says that man's **wicked lifestyle** is produced by his **evil heart**. The wickedness we **do** issues from who we **are**.

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“... Hebrew thought maintains the **unity** of the person. It looks at a human being as a **whole** and expresses all of these and other inner human functions by use of the word [heart]. In the Old Testament the heart is thus the conscious self—the **inner person** with every function that make a person human.”

(Lawrence Richards)

II. The Sagacity of God (Gen. 6:5)

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Genesis 6:5 reveals the **depravity** of mankind, often referred to as the doctrine of **total depravity**.

“Total depravity emphasizes the devastating impact of sin on the person and covers three related concepts:”

1. Sin “is total or pervasive in that **all components** of a person are polluted by sin... No part of man escapes.”
2. Sin “is total in that man is **incapable** of pleasing God on his own.”
3. Sin “is universal in that **all** humans are sinners.”

(John MacArthur)

II. The Sagacity of God (Gen. 6:5)

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What does the Lord want us to know about the inner condition of human beings which prompted God to render such **cataclysmic judgment** against them?

He says that “...*the intent of the thoughts of man’s heart* **was only evil continually.**” And this led to grossly sinful lifestyles.

II. The Sagacity of God (Gen. 6:5)

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Taken together, the “***thoughts of a man’s heart***” are those intentions and purposes issuing from the core of who we are. It is the place where we form, produce, and frame our plans, purposes, and intentions.

II. The Sagacity of God (Gen. 6:5)

The assessment of God is **always true** (Gen. 6:5)

*“Who can **discern** his errors?”* And the obvious answer is, **no one**. So he then says to God, *“Acquit me of **hidden** faults.”* (Ps. 19:12)

*“...the hearts of the sons of men are **full** of evil, and madness is in their hearts **throughout** their lives.”* (Eccles. 9:3)

*“The heart is **more deceitful** than all else and is **desperately sick; who can know it?**”* (Jer. 17:9)

II. The Sagacity of God (Gen. 6:5)

The assessment of God is **always true** (Gen. 6:5)

*“I, Yahweh, **search the heart; I test the inmost being**, even to give to each man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds.”* (Jer. 17:10)

*“For [God] **knows the secrets** of the heart.”* (Ps. 44:21)

*“And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but **all** things are **uncovered** and **laid bare** to the eyes of Him to whom we have to give an account.* (Heb. 4:13)

II. The Sagacity of God (Gen. 6:5)

The assessment of God is **always true** (Gen. 6:5)

Carefully and prayerfully consider that:

- We **cannot** trust our own hearts... apart from God's truth.
- God's view of our hearts is **trustworthy**
- He sees the outwardly visible, and He alone also looks to the inward, or the **innermost**, part of our being as well.
- Only God can **accurately assess and expose** the inner condition and operations of the heart.
- God's assessment is **always** proper, fitting, faithful, and firm because His judgments issue from His person.
- God **never** lies to us or misjudges our hearts.
- God's Word alone is His wisdom to assess and expose our hearts to us for **what is truly there**.

A person is silhouetted against a night sky filled with stars. The Milky Way galaxy is visible, stretching across the sky from the bottom center towards the top. The person is standing on a small rock or mound of earth. The overall scene is dark and atmospheric, with the stars providing a soft glow.

*“The unfolding of Your words **gives light**;
It gives **understanding** to the simple.”*

Psalm 119:130

A person is silhouetted against a night sky filled with stars and the Milky Way galaxy. The person is standing on a small rock or mound of earth in the foreground. The sky is dark with a dense field of stars, and the Milky Way is visible as a bright, colorful band of light stretching across the sky. The text "GRACE CHURCH" and "WILLIAMSBURG" is overlaid on the sky in a white, serif font.

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