

**Covenant Made,
Covenant Broken:
Creation, Fall, and
Death in the
Covenant of Works**

Total Depravity?

A. The unbeliever always has sin mixed with the good things he does

B. Everything the unbeliever does is sinful against God

C. The unbeliever is, deep down, ultimately selfish and is incapable of selflessness toward others

D. The unbeliever at every moment sins as much as possible, he cannot sin more than he does

Rebellion

Is sin simply individual, isolated acts against God?

The rebel is in a state of rebellion at every moment, regardless of what he is doing

Everything the rebel does is rebellion

Autonomy

“The method that was introduced into the world by Adam when he listened to Satan... is that man starts and finishes his interpretation about any and every aspect of life with the assumption of his own autonomy.”

Van Til, *Protestant Doctrine of Scripture*, 12-14;
quoted in Bahnsen, *Van Til's Apologetic: Readings
and Analysis*, 310-311.

Fall of Judgement

“She [Eve] said we know independently of God. She said that God’s authority was to be tested by herself. Thus she came to take the place of ultimate authority. She was no doubt going to test God’s authority by *experience* and *reflection* upon experience. Yet it would be *she* herself, who should be the final authority.”

Van Til, *Defense of the Faith*, 49-52; quoted in Bahnsen, *Van Til’s Apologetic: Readings and Analysis*, 97.

Fall of Science

“Could not Satan’s hypothesis be as good as God’s? Does not the scientific method require that, at the outset of any investigation of the facts of the physical universe, any hypothesis be placed on a par with any other hypothesis?”

Van Til, *Protestant Doctrine of Scripture*, 12-14;
quoted in Bahnsen, *Van Til’s Apologetic: Readings
and Analysis*, 309.

Fall of Science

“When we study physics, we do not usually think of the fact that we are dealing with revelation.”

Van Til, *Introduction to Systematic Theology*, 65-66;
quoted in Bahnsen, *Van Til's Apologetic: Readings
and Analysis*, 259.

Fall of Logic and Reason

What evidence do you have that your logic has any connection whatsoever with truth?

Does your trust in logic depend upon where you come from? Upon Who made you?

How can the unbeliever employ logic if they believe that their brains evolved by chance?

Fall of Logic and Reason

“Suppose we think of a man made of water in an infinitely extended and bottomless ocean of water. Desiring to get out of water, he makes a ladder of water. He sets this ladder upon the water and against the water and then attempts to climb out of the water.”

Van Til, *Defense of the Faith*, 116-120; quoted in Bahnsen, *Van Til's Apologetic: Readings and Analysis*, 528.

Fall of Ownership

“When working in the laboratory as scientists, men act as though they are not dealing with materials that belong to God. They are like a thief who, entering into your home and exploring all kinds of things within it, claims that the question of the ownership of the house is of no concern to him.”

Van Til, *Common Grace*, 130, 131; quoted in Bahnsen, *Van Til's Apologetic: Readings and Analysis*, 456.

Man Is Born Covenantal

“Paul holds the sinner responsible for not seeing the presence of God’s attributes in nature and in himself. But Paul does this because he thinks of man as inherently a covenantal being. The sinner is a covenant breaker in and with Adam. Every fact that faces man... puts him face to face with God. He is therefore to handle every fact with which he deals to the glory of God. As a scientist he is to use such hypotheses and such only as are based upon the presupposition that every fact is what it is because of the place that it occupies in the plan of God.”

Van Til, *Protestant Doctrine of Scripture*, 62-72; quoted in Bahnsen, *Van Til’s Apologetic: Readings and Analysis*, 680.

All Reality Is Covenantal

“On the Reformed view, all created reality is covenantally revelational. The facts of man’s created environment are what they are as the field of operation for the covenantal reaction of man to God. Man, made in the image of God, is either covenantally obedient or covenantally disobedient in all of his reactions to all of the facts of God’s revelational material”

Van Til, *Protestant Doctrine of Scripture*, 62-72; quoted in Bahnsen, *Van Til’s Apologetic: Readings and Analysis*, 680.

Covenantal Education

Dragnet philosophy: Just the facts, Ma'am

All reality, and therefore, all education in every area confronts us with God

Every fact implicates us further in either obedience to, or rebellion against, God

What Is Sin?

Doing bad things...

Doing the forbidden,
Failing to do the mandatory

Living under the standard of rebellion
Every act done under that standard is sin,
even acts of selflessness and philanthropy

Sin and the Unbeliever

Are Calvinists just cynics?

Are all unbelievers really selfish, uncaring?

Can the unbeliever do good?

The unbeliever demands autonomy over what he considers 'good' and 'evil'

Sin and the Believer

Declare that we make the rules
We decide right from wrong, not God

Epistemological atheism

“The sword devours this one and that one”
II Sam 11:25

The Fall

“As through one man’s offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man’s righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man’s obedience many will be made righteous.” Romans 5:18-19

“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.” I Corinthians 15:22

First Hope

Proto-Evangelium

“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.”