

Is it correct to refer to Christians as inherently evil and totally depraved? Also, is the heart of a Christian deceitful and desperately wicked?

Men (Ro 5:8, 19) born in Adam (Ps 51:5, Jn 3:6) are fallen (Ro 3:23). God demonstrates his own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Ro 5:8). The difference between the righteous and the wicked is belief (Ro 10:9).

Christians have: called on the name of the Lord (Ro 10:13), passed from death to life (Jn 5:24) and will not appear at the Great White Throne judgment (Re 20:12–13). They do not live in habitual sin (1 Jn 3:9). Rather, their lives are godly (1 Jn 3:9) and they bear good fruit (Jn 15:1–8). They have been made a new creation (2 Co 5:17)—called out of the world (Ro 1:7). Believers are aliens and strangers in the world (1 Pe 2:11). The Gospel transformed them (Rom. 6:4–11) bringing them into a living hope (1 Pe 1:3).

Saints (Ac 9:32, 41) have a flesh nature (Ga 5:17a) and a Spirit nature (v. 5:17b–18). The apostle Paul encouraged believers to live by their new nature (5:16a).

The wicked have only a flesh, or sin nature (Eph 2:3) and remain under God's wrath (Eph 2:3). They will be punished (Pr. 11:31) and consumed (Ps 104:35).

God recreates the heart (Eze 11:19). The heart of the regenerate is described as: circumcised (Ro 2:29), contrite (Ps 51:17), enlarged (Ps 119:32), enlightened (2 Co 4:6), joyful in God (1 Sa 2:1), meditative (Ps 4:4), perfect (Ps 101:2), pure (Ps 73:1; Matt. 5:8), prayerful (1 Sa 1:12, 13), glad and sincere (Ac 2:46), steadfast (Ps 57:7), tender (2 Ki 22:19), treasury of good (Mt 12:35) and wise (Pr 10:8)¹; whereas the heart of the unregenerate is described as: blind (Eph 4:18), darkened (Ro 1:21), covetous (2 Pe 2:14), full of evil (Ge 6:5), unrepentant (Ro 2:5), lustful (Pr. 6:25), proud (Jer 49:16), rebellious (Jer 5:23) and uncircumcised (Ac 7:51).²

¹ Thomas Nelson Publishers. (1996). Nelson's quick reference topical Bible index (p. 279). Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers.

² Ibid, p. 279.