

GUILTY AS CHARGED – PART 1

ROMANS 3:9-12

Have you ever had someone tell you that they think **ALL MANKIND IS BASICALLY GOOD**—and seemingly believe that to be factually accurate?

- Therefore—even if there is a God—they do not need His acceptance or approval, because they are doing good by their own definition. Unfortunately, God disagrees!
- In **VERSES 9-20**, God presents His case as He reads the arraignment, His indictment, and notes the motivation of the accused before He pronounces His verdict.

THE WHOLE WORLD IS GUILTY AS CHARGED!

In the end of **CHAPTER 2** and beginning of **CHAPTER 3**, Paul had already proved (charged) both Jews and Gentiles to be guilty before God with several quotations from the Old Testament.

- Note the repetition of the words “*none*” and “*all*,” which in themselves assert the universality of human guilt. His first quotation was from **PSALM 14:1-3**.
- Man’s inner being is controlled by sin: his **MIND** (“*none that understands*”), his **HEART** (“*none that seeks after God*”), and his **WILL** (“*none that does good*”).

THE ARRAIGNMENT

The charge begins with a couple of questions . . .

1. What then? Are we better than they?

- That is, do we have a *better* basic nature than those who have just been shown to be condemned in

CHAPTERS 1-3?

- Are we made from a different mold, cut from a different piece of cloth than they?

2. Are we intrinsically superior to those other folks?

- Is our basic human nature on a higher plane?

Paul unequivocally asserts: ***Not at all.***

THE INDICTMENT OVERVIEW

PAUL NOW PRESENTS AN APPALLING THIRTEEN-COUNT INDICTMENT AGAINST FALLEN MANKIND.

In **VERSES 10-18**, he uses the term *none* and its equivalent—*not even one*—six times in referring to man's absolute lack of righteousness before God.

THE CHARGES OF THE INDICTMENT ARE PRESENTED IN THREE CATEGORIES:

- The first concerning the **CHARACTER v. 10-12**
- The second concerning the **CONVERSATION v. 13-14**
- The third concerning the **CONDUCT (v. 15-17)** of the accused.

THE FIRST SIX CHARGES— THE CHARACTER ISSUES v. 10-12

1. Paul charges in his indictment that mankind is **UNRIGHTEOUS**.
2. Man not only is universally evil, but also **SPIRITUALLY IGNORANT**.
3. In addition to being universally evil and spiritually ignorant, fallen man is **SUPREMEPLY REBELLIOUS**.
4. Paul charges that men are **NATURALLY WAYWARD**.

TWO MORE CHARACTER CHARGES

5. Paul charges that the natural man is **SPIRITUALLY WORTHLESS**.
 - The Hebrew equivalent of the Greek term translated here as **useless** was often used to describe milk that had turned sour and rancid.
6. The natural man is charged with being **CORRUPT**.
 - This is both a repetition of the first charge and something of a summary of the previous five charges.

PRAISE THE LORD FOR HIS AMAZING GRACE FOR OUR UNBELIEVABLY MESSED UP HUMAN NATURE!