



## [Ecclesiastes 7:29](#)

(29) Lo, this only I have found, that God has made man *to be* upright, but they have sought out many devisings."

*A Faithful Version*

This verse is especially thought-provoking as an Old Testament insight into what is called the Doctrine of Original Sin. It plainly asserts that [God](#) did not create man for the purpose of sinning.

Through the millennia, mankind has shown a persistent and strong proclivity to blame God for all his troubles. We are indeed created in the [image of God](#) ([Genesis 1:26](#)). God gave us a spirit ([Job 32:8](#)), and by it, we have the ability to understand and harness many of the powers that He placed within our nature and environment. But [Ecclesiastes 7:29](#) clearly indicates that man, specifically Adam and then all humanity after him, including women, have deliberately chosen to sin.

This point appears in the final part, "But they have sought out many schemes." Time and history have proven repeatedly that we do not always do things constructively. We seem to pollute everything we touch, creating new problems with each generation, most of which we cannot solve. Potential problems exist now that could, except for God's mercy, wipe life itself from the face of the earth.

We could loosely interpret verse 29 as, "God made man to be upright, but man has defeated himself by his own schemes. He strives to do things his way. He goes to so much trouble to make trouble for himself instead of reading God's Book, believing it, and submitting to it."

Mark Twain is highly respected as a writer, but according to contemporary accounts, he was sarcastic and cynical about God and life in general. By means of his skilled writing, he managed to hide from the public his hatred of God, Christianity, and life itself. However, in *Huckleberry Finn*, his most popular and critically acclaimed novel, he

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portrays God, and Christians especially, as ignorant, pharisaical, and silly, demanding dolts, killjoys who take all the fun out of life.

Twain blamed God for all of mankind's troubles. On these thoughts, he wrote a book in the last few months of his life, *Letters to Earth*, and it so offended his daughter that she would not allow it to be published until thirty years or so after his death, fearing it would destroy his reputation. In another place he wrote, "Whoever has lived long enough to find out what life is, knows how deep a debt of gratitude we owe to Adam, the first great benefactor of our race. He brought death into the world."

Thank God that there is also a Last Adam! By virtue of His sinless life, atoning death, and resurrection, we can by God's grace receive the quality of life God intended from the beginning. We do not have the wisdom to solve all the deep mysteries of life, but from our experiences, we should be wise enough to look within ourselves and see the deadly sin in our hearts, asking God to be our Savior through Jesus Christ.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

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