

the  Venues
Go Deep
The Spirituality of The Beatles
Mind Games
6.23.19

Quick: Count the number of times the letter F appears in the following sentence. 10 seconds:
“Finished files are the result of years of scientific study combined with the experience of years.”

How many did you find?

Solution: There are actually 6. Why do you think we didn’t see all of them?

“Mind Games” by John Lennon is a call to continue the message of Love. John wrote that people dismissed the message saying, *“We all have to face the reality of being nasty human beings who are born evil and everything’s gonna be lousy and rotten.”*

What do you think? Are people born evil?

Some people believe in the doctrine of “original sin” which says that due to the sin of Adam, babies are born depraved, fallen, in a “state of sin.” That’s why some churches baptize babies.

Protestantism and Catholicism teach this but the Eastern Church (260 million members) does not. What do we make of such differences?

Protestant churches sing a song from 1709 that asks the question of Jesus, *“Why did Jesus die for such a worm as I?”* In 1995 another song was written with the same theology: *“How deep the Father’s love for us. That He should give His only Son to make a wretch His treasure.”*

What are the consequences of “worm theology” or “wretch theology”?

Here’s an alternative view: Instead of “original sin” it is “original blessing.”

Read Genesis 1:26 and 1:31. *What is the blessing referred to here?*

Read 1 Timothy 1:7. *What has God placed within us? Why don’t we live out what God has put in?*

Read Ecclesiastes 7:29. *What does this verse teach us about our identity and behavior?*

Read James 4:5. *What does it mean for God to be jealous of the spirit He has put in us?*

How different would we be as individuals, would church be, would communities be if we actually believed in the doctrine of “original blessing”?