

Genesis 9:6 -- "Whoever sheds man's blood,
By man his blood shall be shed,
For in the image of God
He made man."

James 3:8-9 -- "But no one can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil and full of
deadly poison. With it we bless our Lord and Father; and with it we curse
men, who have been made in the likeness of God."

4. The ability to perform relatively good actions remains in the unregenerate

The unsaved man is able to perform deeds which are outwardly in conformity to the Law of God, even though he cannot thereby please God or earn a right standing before God. He can perform natural good or civic righteousness.

Luke 6:32-34 -- "And if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same thing. And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, in order to receive back the same amount."

Luke 11:11-13 -- "Now suppose one of you fathers is asked by his son for a fish; he will not give him a snake instead of a fish, will he? Or if he is asked for an egg, he will not give him a scorpion, will he? If you, then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your Heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?"

Romans 2:14-15 -- "For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves, in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness, and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending themselves."

The reason why evil human beings know how to give good gifts to their children is not because they are evil! Rather, it is because some rudiments of the image of God continue in them; and from these remnants of God's image some relatively good actions spring. Thus the credit for such actions goes to God, not to the evil man.

The reason why Gentiles who do not have the Mosaic Law do instinctively some things that are in external conformity to the Mosaic Law is that our first parents had the moral principles of the Mosaic Law engraved on their hearts at their creation, and the Fall has not entirely obliterated those moral principles, nor can sin totally extinguish the expression of those principles.