

Biblical Predestination & The Lies of Calvinism – Rom. 8:28-30; Eph. 1:3-6

A special thanks to Dr. Fred Christian, Pastor of Big Bottom Missionary Baptist Church, for his teachings on this subject, which helped me compile these notes.

The Teachings of Extreme, or so called Hyper-Calvinism, is classified as “Dogmatic theology” This old teaching has made a resurgence among churches today, including IFB churches! They are calling it new, but it isn’t new – it is Hyper-Calvinism (or Extreme Calvinism), and there is a spiritual arrogance that goes along with it (they think that there are extremely educated).

Dogmatic Theology – Doctrine that was formulated and handed down by an ecclesiastical body or assembly of churches – a bunch of people met and decided this is what the Bible teaches. In this case the Reformed Church gets its name from the Protestant Reformation.

Systematic Theology – Doctrine that is based solely on the Word of God without any endorsement of a particular church body or ecclesiastical assembly – in other words, nobody ever got together, we just get it straight out of the Word of God – The Final Authority in ALL matters of faith and practice is the King James Bible! As an Independent Baptist we have no national headquarters, we just believe what the old BOOK says, AMEN!

The History of Calvinism

Name – From John Calvin

Time – 1536 published “The Institution of Christian Religion” better known as “The Institutes”

Teaching – That before creation, God elected some people for salvation and others for damnation.

John Calvin himself did not even adhere to everything that is taught by Extreme Calvinists today. He did not believe in the limited atonement of the blood of Jesus Christ (that Christ died only for the sins of the elect) – his writings contain language such as “He suffered and died for the Salvation of the human race” and “on Him was laid the guilt of the whole.” John Calvin was only a 4-pointer, not a 5-pointer like the Hyper-Calvinists today (more on this later).

The Origin of the 5 points – TULIP

T **Total Depravity**

U **Unconditional Election**

L **Limited Atonement**

I **Irresistible Grace**

P **Perseverance of the Saints (Note: This is NOT Eternal Security)**

These 5 points of doctrine didn’t originate with Calvin, they originated in 1618, where people began to meet and debate between the followers of John Calvin (Calvinism) and the followers of Jacobus Arminius (Arminianism). Now, the Arminians believe that the Sovereignty of God DOES NOT conflict with the Free Will of Man. There is a balance between the doctrine of the Sovereignty of God and the doctrine of the Free Will of Man! This meeting lasted 6 months, and that is where the TULIP came from (The Cannons of Dort). Each point is contingent upon the other. If Total Depravity is true, then there must be Unconditional Election. The whole thing rests upon Total Depravity (what they believe about it). [ILLUSTRATION OF A HOUSE OF CARDS]

The Sovereignty of God & The Free Will of Man

What does the Bible teach about Election and Free Will? Eph. 1:3-6; John 3:14-16. Ephesians deals with Election (Chosen), John deals with Free Will (Whosoever). These two ideas Scripturally are in perfect harmony (they are congruent, the same). I am chosen, but free! The Sovereignty of God and the Free Will of Man are two oars that row the same boat. **The emphasis in Rom. 8:29 is not on Predestination for Heaven, but rather it is on Predestination for Holiness!** God foreknew who would be saved, just as He foreknew that Adam would fall and that man would need a Saviour (Rev. 13:8). All those who accept Jesus are predestinated to be conformed to His image; in other words, it is God's plan that every born-again child of God live a holy life as a Christian! AMEN!

The Scriptural Truth about Total Depravity

The Balanced View - **A man is Totally Depraved and incapable of doing anything that will make him acceptable in the sight of God.** Man cannot change his character on his own, and is a sinner by nature and by choice, and there is nothing that he can do on his own to be saved (by good works). Tit. 3:5; Eph. 2:8-9.

The Subtle Deception about Total Depravity

The Extreme View - The Subtle Deception re-defines what Total Depravity is. Humans are incapable of hearing the voice of God and responding to it until they have first been regenerated (or born again). Man is spiritually dead and because he is, he cannot respond to God. **To the Hyper-Calvinist, Total Depravity is Total Inability.** What they're saying is if a man is unsaved (a sinner), he cannot respond or hear the voice of God, unless he is born again. They say he must be born again before he can believe. R.C. Sproul (a leader in the Reformed Church) said, "The reformed view of Predestination teaches that before a person can choose Christ he must be born again. One does not first believe and then become reborn..." - THAT IS FALSE! Just because man is spiritually dead does not mean that he cannot hear or respond to the voice of God. The Biblical proof is Adam. Gen. 2:17; 3:6-10. Eve ate the fruit, gave to her husband Adam, and he ate the fruit also - they died spiritually, and they began to die physically (Rom. 5:12). **When Adam fell, the image of God in him was damaged, but not destroyed.** Gen. 1:26; Gen. 5:3; Gen. 9:6 - man still had the image of God! 1 Cor. 11:7; James 3:9. Adam had a fallen nature, but still had the image of God. He still heard the call of God and the voice of God after he became spiritually dead! Adam not only heard the call, but he responded to the call - he confessed! He tried to pass the blame, but he still confessed. 1 Pet. 1:23 - the Spirit of God takes the Word of God and births me into the Family of God - my new birth took place after I heard the voice of the Lord speak to me when I was spiritually dead. **Those who are spiritually dead are simply unwilling to accept the truth.** Rom. 1:18-20. People have to be taught to be an agnostic or atheist - you have to believe a lie to be one! Inside of every individual is an innate knowledge that there is a God! Tit. 2:11. If you are here tonight and are lost, you are lost because you want to be - you are not accepting what God has done for you. You are holding the truth in unrighteousness and are without excuse! Every excuse that man ever had was taken away AT CALVARY! In light of the Cross of Calvary, no one has to die and go to hell, praise His Holy Name!

[Pages 1-2 were covered on 9/2/18 at the First Baptist Church of Pinch by Pastor Michael Smith]