

# The Protestant Doctrine Of Calvinism

**Introduction:** What is Calvinism? 1. Calvinism is a system of false doctrine that is taught in most evangelical denominations, named after John Calvin, a French reformer in the 1500's. 2. There are 5 major points of Calvinism. These 5 points are known by the acronym: T.U.L.I.P. 3. None of the 5 point are taught in the Bible.

**T**otal hereditary depravity babies inherit the sin of Adam and are totally depraved and therefore unable to respond to the gospel message of Christ.

**U**nconditional election (or predestination) God had a master list of those who will be saved and those who will go to hell before creation in Gen 1:1. The list is unchangeable.

**L**imited atonement Christ did not die for all men but only those on the "saved list"

**I**rresistible grace God sends the Holy Spirit only those on the saved list which removes their depraved nature inherited from Adam and creates within them a saving faith in Christ. The Holy Spirit thereafter guides them directly to understand and correctly interpret the Bible.

**P**erseverance of the saints A child of God once saved, cannot be lost.

## Total Depravity

**Official Statement** - Augsburg confession Article 2: "It is also taught among us that since the fall of Adam all men who are born according to the course of nature are conceived and born in sin. That is, all men are full of evil lust and inclination from their mother's womb and are unable by nature to have true fear of God and true faith in God. Moreover, this in-born sickness and hereditary sin is truly sin and condemns to the eternal wrath of God all whose who are not born again through baptism and the Holy Spirit." (Lutheran)

### Doctrine Refuted

A. The mechanism for the transmission of inherited sin false:

1. Spiritual consequences of sin cannot be transmitted from father to son but only falls on the one who committed the act: Ezek. 18:1-4; 18-20; Jer. 32:29-30
2. Exodus 31:31-33 In this passage, Moses wanted to receive the punishment for someone else's sin. In verse 33, the one who sinned is removed from

the book, not the one whose parents have sinned.

3. We will be judged only by our own actions: Mt 12:36-37; Rom 2:6; 2 Cor 5:10; 1 Pet 1:17
4. Isaiah 59:1-2, "Your sins have separated you from your God" not Adam's
5. Sin is committed by individually breaking God's law: 1 ~n 3:4 (Infants have done nothing)
6. Where is one Bible verse that says we will be condemned for sin other than our own?

B. Unsaved and unregenerate men are capable of doing good and have freewill:

1. Calvinists teach that if a sinner helps an accident victim, he still sins because he does it for the wrong motive.
2. Gentiles do by nature the good things of the law: Rom 2:14-16
3. Cornelius was devout, feared God, righteous (Acts 10:1-4, 22) yet unsaved - Acts 11:14
4. Man has a freewill and can choose to do good or evil: Josh 24:15 "Choose this day..."

C. God requires man to act and do something to be saved - infants can't act or do

1. "Unless you repent you will perish": Lk 13:3
2. "Save yourselves": Acts 2:40 KJV
3. "Repent and be baptized every one of you for forgiveness of sins": Acts 2:38
4. Why are we told to "work out our own salvation": Phil 2:12
5. The spoken and written gospel message is God's power for salvation: Rom. 1: 16; 1 Cor 1:18

D. The words used to describe salvation refute inherited sin:

1. These words imply that we, individually, were once in God's grace at conception and birth
2. The Bible's way of describing our salvation:
  - "redeemed" to buy back
  - "Regenerate" to generate again, renewed, restored
  - "Reconciled" to make friendly again, payment of a price to recover from the power of another, a restoration to favor.
  - "Reconciliation" Col 1: 14,20,21 the blessing of the recovered favor of God
  - "born again" Jn 3:3-3 refers to spiritual rebirth because we are not born again physically.

E. The Bible describes infants are pure and holy:

1. Why would Jesus use infants as a model for all believers to imitate in character if they were "utterly indisposed, disabled, and made opposite to all good, and wholly inclined to all evil"? Mt 18: 1-3; 19: 13-14
2. Paul also used infants as a model of purity for Christians to follow: 1 Cor 14:20
3. Paul states that he was once spiritually alive but then he sinned & died/was killed: Rom 7:9-11
4. God said that the king of Tyrus was "blameless in your ways from the day you were created, until unrighteousness was found in you." Ezek 28:15

5. "God made men upright but they sought devices" Eccl 7:29 (plural can't refer only to Adam)
6. Newborns do not know the difference between good and evil •God allowed the children to enter Canaan but not the parents: "your little ones who...have no knowledge of good and evil shall enter". Deut 1:34-39
  - Jacob & Esau, "the twins were not yet born, and had done nothing good or bad" Rom 9:11
  - Jesus "Before He knows enough to refuse evil and choose good" Isa 7:15-16
7. Jer 19:2-6 - human sacrifices of children to Baal is called the "blood of the innocent"
8. If newborns do not know "good or evil" yet the Bible says, "Your sins have separated you from your God" (Isa 59:1-2) then newborns must be born united with God.

### **Some Favorite Passages of Calvinists - Ps 51:5**

1. The NIV's Calvinistic predisposition causes them to completely mistranslate this verse.
2. David confesses his own sin which he committed, not Adam's.
3. There are three different acceptable ways of looking at this verse.
  - David refers to sin of mother not his own: "In drunkenness did my husband beat me." David was conceived in adultery or out of wedlock. Remember that David had conceived a son while committing the sin of adultery. (Hyperbole/exaggeration for the sake of poetry)
  - That he was born into a world filled with sin where evil prevails. Notice that Acts 2:8 says that men were "born in a language". (They actually learned the language)
  - That the reason he committed this sin is because, unlike all other men and contrary to nature, David was born a sinner. (Hyperbole/exaggeration for the sake of poetry)
    - a. People often overstate things when they are in the midst of grief for their sin.
    - b. Paul used Hyperbole when he called himself the foremost sinner in 1 Tim 1:15; Romans 5:12-21
      - 1. v 12 - Spiritual death spread to all men because each and every man sinned himself. If a man didn't sin, then he wouldn't die spiritually. This is exactly what Paul said in the next chapter (6:23) The wages of sin is (spiritual) death. Physical death is not the result of our sin, for physical death was decreed when Adam sinned.
      - \* 2. If Adam's sin automatically and universally causes all mankind to receive condemnation for something they did not do or had any choice in, then Christ's dying on the cross also automatically and universally causes all mankind to be saved independent of anything they had done or choose. Who will accept this?

What proves to much proves nothing at all. The truth is that all are condemned when they commit sin (v 12) and all are saved when they obey Jesus.

## Unconditional Election

**Official Statement** - "God from all eternity did by the most wise and holy counsel of his own will freely and unchangeably ordain whatsoever comes to pass ... By the decree of God, for the manifestation of his glory, some men and angels are predestinated unto life, and others foreordained to everlasting death. These angels and men, thus predestinated and foreordained, are particularly and unchangeably designed; and their number is so certain and definite that it cannot be either increased or diminished." (The Confession of Faith of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., from chapter 111, entitled "Of God's Eternal Decree")

### The Doctrine Refuted

- A. The Bible teaches predestination, but not Calvinistic Predestination:
  - 1. Bible predestination is where God predetermined, not the identity of the saved, but the character of the saved
  - 2. We are not opposed to predestination, for the Bible teaches it. However, Calvin's view of predestination is entirely unbiblical and therefore false doctrine.
- B. God is not a respecter of persons: Acts 10:34; Rom 2:11-12; 1 Pet 1:17
- C. God does not will that any perish but all be saved: Tit 2:11; 1 Tim 2:3-4; 5; 2 Pet 3:9
- D. Makes the Devil no enemy for the saved to worry about, if predestined - 1 Pet 5:8.  
Why beware?
- E. Our eternal destiny (heaven or hell) is based entirely upon personal choices we make based upon our own freewill. If we end up in hell, we can only blame ourselves!

### Some Favorite Passages Of Calvinists

Romans 8:28-30

- 1. Who is under consideration here?
- 2. "those who love God" - not a few whom God loves
- 3. "the called according to His purpose" - we are not called by a still, mysterious voice or by a direct operation of the Holy Spirit or by God Himself, but by the gospel (2 Thess. 2:14).
- 4. Those who hear, believe and respond in obedience are referred to as "the called" (Gal. 1: 6; 1 Pet. 2: 9).
- 5. In Romans 8:29-30, we can see the unfolding of God's plan. God determined to send mankind a Savior to die- for all men.
- 6. He foreordained all of the events before they actually took place.
- 7. In that sense, God predestinated our salvation. It was not that He selected us individually to be saved or lost, but that those who accepted the gospel call would be saved.
- 8. Those who answer that call are justified and glorified.

Ephesians 1:4-5.11

1. God has had an eternal plan in mind - a scheme of redemption for those who will accept it.
2. Those who are chosen are those who are "in Him" (Christ) - vs. 3-4
3. We become God's children by our faith in and obedience to Christ's gospel (v. 5). God adopts us into His family upon our obedience (Rom. 8:15; Gal. 4:4-6).
4. The counsel of God's will (v. 11) refers to His decision to send Jesus to redeem the obedient.

## Limited Atonement

**Official Statement** - "If God has elected some and not others to eternal life, then plainly the primary purpose of Christ's work was to redeem the elect" (The Reformed Doctrine Of Predestination page 151)

### Doctrine Refuted

- A. The Bible says that Jesus died for all men.
  1. Luke 19:10
  2. II Corinthians 5:14-15
  3. Hebrews 2:9
- B. His blood can wash away anyone's sin.
  1. John 1:29
  2. 1 John 2:1-2
- C. The gospel is for all men.
  1. Mark 16:15-16
  2. Romans 1:16

### Some Favorite Passages Of Calvinists

John 10:15-16

Argument: Jesus died only for His sheep (which they take to mean the elect).

Answer: In verse 16, Christ taught that there are "other sheep not of this fold" who would come into the fold. Calvinists deny that one can change from "sheep not of the fold" to "sheep of the fold." There are numerous Bible examples of those who made that change. Eg. Many Corinthians had changed - I Corinthians 6:9-11; Paul changed - 1 Timothy 1:13-14

Acts 20:28; Ephesians 5:25

Argument: Christ died only for those who are saved - again, the elect.

Answer: He died to purchase the church; there is no doubt about that. And the church is composed of the saved. But the Bible truth that Calvinists overlook is that any man or woman can become a part of that church.

**Conclusion:** God is no respecter of persons. Jesus died for ALL men. Anyone who obeys the gospel may be saved eternally (Rev. 22:17).

# Irresistible Grace

**Official Statement** - "That regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind; that it is effected in a manner above our comprehension by the Holy Spirit in connection with Divine Truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel" (Hiscox's Manual pg. 63)

## Doctrine Refuted

- A. This causes man to lose his freewill and his actions are not the result of his personal choice:
1. Calvinists will actually argue that they do not personally have a free will to choose anything.
  2. Man becomes a puppet/robot of either:
    - Devil: "The Devil made me do it"
    - God: "God forced me into becoming a Christian although I was having fun as a sinner"
  3. Passages that prove man has a free will and God expects man to choose to do right
    - Deut 30:15-18; Josh 24:15; Jn 15:6-7; 3:16
  4. Man can "resist the Holy Spirit": Acts 6:10; 7:51-55; I Thess. 5:19
  5. Without free will, many of Bible statements make no sense:
    - "Why do you call me Lord & don't do what I say" Lk 6:46
    - "Whosoever believes shall be saved" ~n 3:16
    - "Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely. Rev 22:17
    - "And whosoever will not receive you, when you go out of that city, shake off the very dust from your feet for a testimony against them. " Lk. 9: 5
    - "Come to me you who are heavy laden and I will give you rest" - Mt 11: 28
- B. How can man be held accountable to God for his actions in judgment without freewill?
- "We must all appear before the judgment that each may be repaid for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad." 2 Cor 5:10
  - Is it fair to send someone to hell for sins he was forced to commit having no freewill?
  - It contradicts the parable of talents where man is held accountable for his actions. Mt 25:19.
  - Negates the importance of man's obedience
- C. It creates a false view of how we are called by God
1. Calvinists teach than only the "predestined saved" are personally called by God
  2. The Bible teaches that all men are called through gospel IThess.2:14
  3. The Holy Spirit never preached the Gospel directly: Acts 8 (conversion of Eunuch illust.)
  4. Iesus Christ never preached to Gospel after His ascension: Acts 9 (conversion of Paul illust.)
  5. Angels never preached thp gospel: Acts 10 (conversion of Cornelius illust.)

## Some Favorite Passages Of Calvinists

Acts 16:14

Argument: God opened her heart to receive the word, then she heard and then she was saved.

Answer: Our Calvinistic friends have things out of order. Lydia began as a worshiper of God (vs. 13-14). And after she heard Paul and Silas and Timothy preaching, then her heart was opened. She responded and obeyed the Lord (v. 15). [Note: Calvinists want to use this passage but exclude the baptism.]

Romans 8:7

1. Read verses 1-8. In this passage, we see again the free agency of man in choosing to obey or disobey God.
2. Those who are spiritually minded will be obedient to the commandments of God.
3. Those who are carnally minded will be disobedient. It is just that simple.
4. God does not force anyone to accept or reject His will.

I Corinthians 2:14

- \* Notice the context 2:13,6, 1:20-21
- \* Christians described as not spiritual (3:1)
- \* The natural man is parallel to the man walking after the wisdom of this world.

**Conclusion:** We are saved by the grace of Almighty God (Eph. 2:8-10). However, we accept this grace by our own faith, not because God forces us to accept it.

## Perseverance Of The Saints

**Official Statement** - "They whom God hath accepted in His beloved, effectually called and sanctified by His Spirit, can neither totally, nor finally fall away from the state of Grace; but shall certainly persevere therein to the end and be eternally saved (Westminster Confession Of Faith)

### Doctrine Refuted

Gal. 5:4; I Cor. 9:27; 10:12; Col. 1:23; Mt. 24:13; I Tim. 5:15; 4:1; Rev. 2:10; Heb. 3:12, 14; 6:4-6; I Jn. 5:16; James 5:19-20;

## Some Favorite Passages Of Calvinists

A. Christians Cannot Sin: 1 Jn 3:9

- \* The Greek words literally mean, "cannot continue to PRACTICE sin"
- \* John plainly says that Christians do sin: 1 ~n 1:8-10; 2:1-2
- \* The passage is saying that a Christian cannot sin and be consistent with Christ.
- \* Some "never cease from sin" - 2 Pet 2:14 This does not mean they are forced to sin, but choose to.

B. Eternal Life Argument: ~n 3:16; 3:36; 5:24

- \* Other texts prove Christians can be lost .
- \* Eternal life is conditional upon our obedience to God's word prior to judgment:  
Heb 3:6,14

C. Power Of God Argument: Un 10:29; Rom 8:35-39

- \* Other texts prove Christians can be lost...salvation is conditional prior to judgment.
- \* Being a sheep and being in the hand of God is conditional. As long as a person remains a sheep. But sheep can go astray.
- \* What these passages are really teaching is that nothing can harm the Christian who submits to God and obeys His commandments. But if that individual starts to willingly disobey and openly practice sin in rebellion to God will be lost. Here they leave the security of the "hand of God".
- \* Jesus plainly said he would to unfaithful Christians "I will spit you out of My mouth" - Rev 3: 16
- \* Jesus said he would "throw away branches that do not abide in Him" - Jn. 15:6
- \* Romans 8:35-39 faithful follower of Christ, "they shall never perish."
- We cannot be separated from the love of Christ.
- But this verse does not teach that we can never be separated from the salvation which is in Christ.
- Christ's love for man and salvation in Christ are two different things.
- We can separate ourselves from Christ, but not from His love.

D. If They Fall Away, They Weren't Saved In The First Place - 1 Jn 2:19

1. The Bible clearly teaches a Christian can fall away
2. This passage merely says that at the time they "went out" they were not saved. These\*could have been saved in the past but fell away, then they "went out". If not why not?
3. This passage is directed towards those who embraced the Gnostic teaching. These were blood bought believers who fell away from the faith exactly as the Bible prophesied they would.

**Conclusion:** The Bible does teach "Security of the believer" while the Christian remains faithful (2 Tim. 4:7-8). But if we become unfaithful, we have no such promise. "The wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23) - even for an unfaithful child of God.