

INTRO TO

CALVINISM

WHAT IS CALVINISM?

Calvinism is a theological exposition of Scripture's teaching about salvation which confesses God's absolute freedom, total sovereignty, and ultimate glory in the redemption of men.



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IMPORTANT NAMES.

- Augustine
- Pelagius
- Erasmus
- Luther

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- Arminius
- Calvin
- Remonstrants
- Council of Dort, 1618

AUGUSTINE (354-430 AD)

- Philosopher & Theologian.
- Bishop of Hippo, Africa
- Most influential writers in Church History.
- Works include, Confessions, City of God.



“Grant what Thou commandest, and command what
Thou dost desire.”

–St. Augustine

PELAGIUS

- 360-420 AD
- Born in Britain
- Theologian/Philosopher
- Rejected the notion that man needed God's grace in order to obey what God commanded.
- Rejected the doctrine of original sin.



PELAGIUS

- Was tried and declared a heretic 3 times.
- 412 A.D. Council of Carthage
- 418 A.D.
- 431 A.D. The council of Ephesus.



ERASMUS (1466-1536)

- 1466-1536 AD
- Catholic Priest
- Humanist
- Semi-Pelagianism Synergism,



““By free choice...we mean a power of the human will by which a man can apply himself to the things which lead to eternal salvation, or to turn away from them.”

-Erasmus

WHAT IS SYNERGISM?

- “Synergism, in general, may be defined as two or more more agents working together to produce a result not obtainable by any of the agents independently. The word synergy or synergism comes from two Greek words, *erg* meaning to work and *syn* meaning together...” Theopedia

MARTIN LUTHER

- 1483-1546 A.D.
- German Monk
- 95 Theses
- 5 Solas
- The Bondage of the Will



“If any man dost ascribe aught of salvation, even the very least, to the free will of man, he knoweth nothing of grace, and he hath not learnt Jesus Christ aright.”

–Martin Luther

ARMINIUS

- 1560-1609 AD
- Dutch Seminary Professor
- Studied Theology in Geneva Switzerland.
- Objected to the doctrinal position of the Church of Holland pertaining to salvation and original sin.
- His beliefs regarding free will were embraced by a group referred to as the Remonstrants.



REMONSTRANTS

- Petitioned the Church of Holland to change its doctrinal position on original sin and the gospel.
- Petitioned the church to change the Belgic Confession as well as the Heidelberg Catechism to reflect the teaching of Arminius.
- Presented 5 doctrines that they believed needed to be embraced by the Church.

THE 5 POINTS OF THE REMONSTRANTS.

- 1: God elects on the basis of foreseen faith.
- 2: Christ died for everybody, but only those who believe are saved.
- 3: Man in his sin requires the assistance of grace to believe or obey.
- 4: This grace may be resisted.
- 5: Final salvation is uncertain.

“The theology which it contained stemmed from two philosophical principles: first that divine sovereignty is not compatible with human freedom, nor therefore with human responsibility ; second that ability limits obligation...From these principles, the Arminians drew two deductions: first, that since the Bible regards faith as a free and responsible act, it cannot be caused by God, but is exercised independently of Him; second, that since the Bible regards faith as obligatory on the part of all who hear the gospel, ability to believe must be universal...Thus Arminianism made man’s salvation depend ultimately on man himself, saving faith being viewed throughout as man’s own work and, because his own, not God’s in him.

–J.I Packer

THE SYNOD OF DORT, 1618

- Dordrecht, Holland
- 86 voting members (39 pastors, 18 ruling elders from Belgic churches 5 professors from Holland, 19 delegates from Germany & Switzerland, 5 professors and bishops from Great Britain).
- Gathered to consider the 5 points of the Remonstrants.
- 154 sessions, 1 year.
- Conclusion?



““The Synod gave a very close examination to the ‘five points’ which had been advanced by the Remonstrants, and compared the teaching in them with the testimony of Scripture. Failing to reconcile that teaching with the Word of God, . . . they unanimously rejected them. They felt however, that a mere rejection was not sufficient. It remained for them to set forth the true Calvinistic teaching in relationship to those matters which had been called into question. This they proceeded to do, embodying the Calvinistic position in five chapters which have ever since been known as the five points of Calvinism

–Ben A. Warbuton

THE FIVE POINTS OF CALVINISM (T.U.L.I.P.)

- I: Total Depravity/Total Inability.

“Because of the Fall, man is unable of himself to savingly believe the gospel. The sinner is dead, blind and deaf to the things of God; his heart is deceitful and desperately corrupt. His will is not free; it is in bondage to his evil nature.

–Steele, Thomas, Quinn

THE FIVE POINTS OF CALVINISM (T.U.L.I.P.)

- 1: Total Depravity/Total Inability.
- 2: Unconditional Election.

"God's choice of certain individuals for salvation before the foundation of the world rested solely on His own sovereign will. His choice of particular sinners was not based on any foreseen response or obedience on their part, such as faith, repentance, etc."

—Steele, Thomas, Quinn

THE FIVE POINTS OF CALVINISM (T.U.L.I.P.)

- 1: Total Depravity/Total Inability.
- 2: Unconditional Election.
- 3: Limited Atonement/Particular Atonement.

Christ's redeeming work was intended to save the elect only and actually secured salvation for them. His death was a substitutionary endurance of the penalty of sin in the place of certain specified sinners.

—Steele, Thomas, Quinn

THE FIVE POINTS OF CALVINISM (T.U.L.I.P.)

- 1: Total Depravity/Total Inability.
- 2: Unconditional Election.
- 3: Limited Atonement/Particular Atonement.
- 4: Irresistible Grace/Effectual Calling.

In addition to the outward general call to salvation, which is made to everyone who hears the gospel, the Holy Spirit extends to the elect a special inward call that inevitably brings them to salvation. The external call (which is made to all without extinction) can be, and often is, rejected. However, the internal call (which is made only to the elect) cannot be rejected; it always results in conversion.

–Steele, Thomas, Quinn

THE FIVE POINTS OF CALVINISM (T.U.L.I.P.)

- 1: Total Depravity/Total Inability.
- 2: Unconditional Election.
- 3: Limited Atonement/Particular Atonement.
- 4: Irresistible Grace/Effectual Calling.
- 5: Perseverance of the Saints.

All who are chosen by God, redeemed by Christ, and given faith by the Spirit, are eternally saved. They are kept in faith by the power of almighty God, and thus persevere to the end.

—Steele, Thomas, Quinn

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WHAT'S NEXT?

WHAT TO EXPECT IN THE COMING WEEKS.

- Each week we will examine 1 of the 5 points of Calvinism following the order of T.U.L.I.P.
- Define. Defend. Doxology. Discipleship.

SUGGESTED READING

The Five Points Of Calvinism:
Steele, Thomas, Quinn

For Calvinism: Michael Horton

The Bondage Of The Will:
Martin Luther



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Connect Cards.

Facebook Group.

Audio available in November.

