

TULIP

The Five Points of Calvinism

Seven Rivers Church, Fall 2023

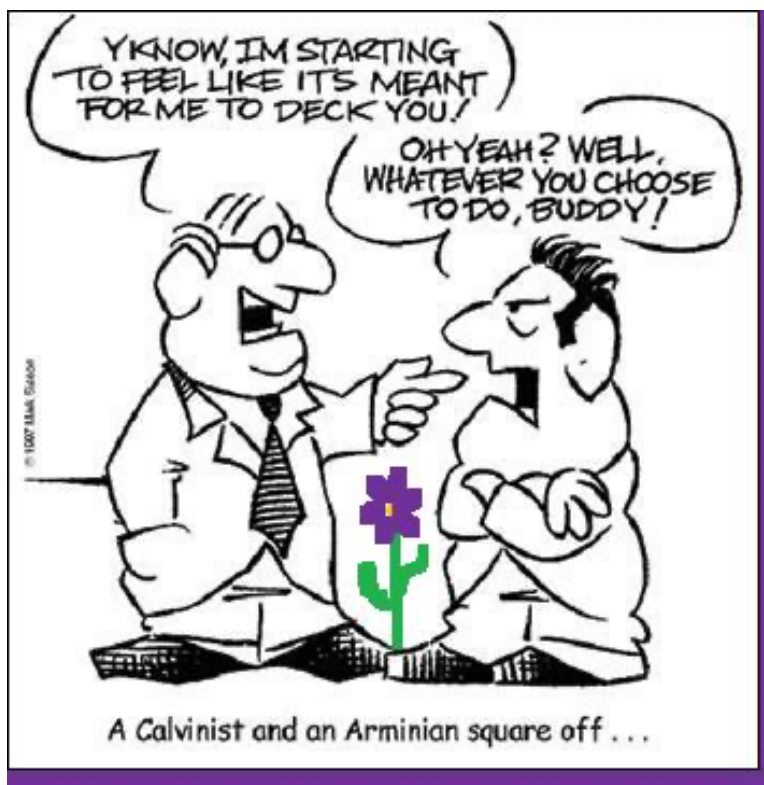


"Welcome to our church... I hope you're blessed by the worshipful atmosphere, the inspiring message, and the comfortable pew my family has been occupying for 5 generations."

(a)



NEXT TIME WHEN I PREACH ON TITHING, DON'T SING 'JESUS PAID IT ALL' AS OUR INVITATIONAL HYMN



Class Schedule

September 6 - Unit 1	Introduction to the Five Points of Calvinism T — Total Depravity
September 13 - Unit 2	U — Unconditional Election
September 20 - Unit 3	L — Limited Atonement
September 27 - Unit 4	I — Irresistible Grace
October 4 - Unit 5	P — Perseverance of the Saints

Overview & Review

T — We are _____

- We are spiritually dead
- We are sinful in nature
- Our will/desire is in bondage to sin and Satan
- The reign of sin is universal
- We are unable to change ourselves

U — God chose _____

L — Christ's death _____

I — God's grace is _____

P — God will _____

Unconditional Election

A Journey Through the Bible

ELECTION in the Old Testament

Gen. 11:31 Terah took Abram his son and Lot the son of Haran, his grandson, and Sarai his daughter-in-law, his son Abram's wife, and they went forth together from Ur of the Chaldeans to go into the land of Canaan, but when they came to Haran, they settled there. **32** The days of Terah were 205 years, and Terah died in Haran.

Gen. 12:1 Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. **2** And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.

Gen. 17:20 As for **Ishmael**, I have heard you; behold, I have blessed him and will make him fruitful and multiply him greatly. He shall father twelve princes, and I will make him into a great nation. **21** But I will establish my covenant with **Isaac**, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this time next year."

Gen. 25:23 And the LORD said to her (Rebekah), "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the older shall serve the younger **[Jacob]**."

Gen. 48:18 And Joseph said to his father, "Not this way, my father; since this one is the firstborn, put your right hand on his head." **19** But his father refused and said, "I know, my son, I know. He also shall become a people, and he also shall be great. Nevertheless, his younger brother **[Ephraim]** shall be greater than he, and his offspring shall become a multitude of nations."

Q) Why did God choose the younger (undeserving) over the older (deserving)?

1. Because God is glorified when HE _____

Ex. 33:18 Moses said, "Please show me your glory." **19** And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name 'The LORD.' And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy.

1 Cor. 1:27 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; **28** God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, **29** so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. **30** And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, **31** so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

2. Because God is glorified when WE _____

Deut. 7:6 “For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. **7** It was **NOT** because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, **8** but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. **9** Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps **covenant and steadfast love** with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations,

Deut. 9:4a “**Do NOT say in your heart**, after the LORD your God has thrust them out before you, ‘It is because of my righteousness that the LORD has brought me in to possess this land... **5a** **NOT** because of your righteousness or the uprightness of your heart are you going in to possess their land... **6a** “Know, therefore, that the LORD your God is **NOT** giving you this good land to possess because of your righteousness, for you are a stubborn people.

Hos. 2:16 “And in that day, declares the LORD, you will call me ‘My Husband,’ and no longer will you call me ‘My Baal.’... **19** And I will betroth you to me forever. I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love and in mercy. **20** I will betroth you to me in faithfulness. And you shall know the LORD.

ELECTION in the Gospels

Jesus - “Elect” - Matt. 24:22; 24:24, 31

John 6

John 6:35 Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. **36** But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. **37** All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. **38** For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. **39** And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. **40** For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”

John 6:44 No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me **draws** him.

John 6:65 And he said, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.”

John 10

John 10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. **11** I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep... **14** I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, **15** just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep... **26** but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. **27** My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. **28** I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.

Psa. 23:6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

John 15

John 15:9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love... **11** These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full... **16** You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit...

John 17

John 17:1 When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, **2** since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him.”

C.S. Lewis

God as...

- The great Angler playing his fish... *“I never dreamed the hook was in my tongue.”*
- A Cat chasing the mouse... *Men search for God... like “the mouse’s search for the cat.”*
- Hounds chasing a fox... *“The fox had been dislodged... and running in the open...”*
- Divine Chessplayer... *“All over the board my pieces were in the most disadvantageous positions. Soon I could no longer cherish even the illusion that the initiative lay with me. My Adversary began to make His final moves... Checkmate.”*

ELECTION in the Rest of the New Testament

Acts 13:48

Acts 13:48 And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.

Romans 8:28-30

Rom. 8:28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. **29** For those whom he **foreknew** he also **predestined** to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. **30** And those whom he **predestined** he also **called**, and those whom he **called** he also **justified**, and those whom he **justified** he also **glorified**.

Rom. 8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? **32** He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

Romans 9:1, 11-16

Rom. 9:1 I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit—**2** that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. **3** For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers

11 though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad—in order that God’s purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of him who calls— **12** she was told, “The older will serve the younger.” **13** As it is written, “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.”

14 What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God’s part? By no means! **15** For he says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.” **16** So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy.

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

2Cor. 4:3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. **4** In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. **5** For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake. **6** For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 1:3-12

Eph. 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, **4** even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love **5** he **predestined** us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, **6** to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. **7** In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, **8** which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight **9** making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ **10** as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. **11** In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been **predestined** according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, **12** so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.

Revelation 13:8

Rev. 13:8 and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.

Rev. 21:27 Nothing evil will be allowed to enter, nor anyone who practices shameful idolatry and dishonesty—but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

Definition of Unconditional Election:

Your Def: _____

My Def: _____

Common Questions:

1. Is salvation unconditional?

2. Is God's election/choice of us conditional on our faith?

Eph. 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And **this** is not your own doing; **it** is the gift of God, **9** not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

2Tim. 2:24 And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, **25** correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth,

3. Does this negate Human Responsibility?

GOD / Heavenly things



Admittedly, this is a great mystery. All persons think and act freely, yet all the while God is sovereignly superintending all things so that his eternal purpose is infallibly accomplished. The Reverend William lay asserted that "all parties act freely, yet necessarily too. ...Ask me not for a solution. I only know the fact. I see the two ends of the chain, but the middle is under water; yet the connection is as real as it is invisible. By and by it will be drawn up." - Jim Orrick

God's CALLING is BOTH Effectual and Universal

Universal — Psalm 19; Rom. 1; Ez. 18:23; Jer. 7:13, 20-26;

1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Pet. 3:9; Matt. 23:37; John 3:16

Effectual — John 6, 10, 15 — Calling like Lazarus out of the tomb in John 11

—> More on this with "Irresistible Grace"

Rom. 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! **34** "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor? Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?" **36** For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

"Don't try to unscrew the inscrutable" - Robert Peterson

How should we respond to God's Unconditional Election?

"But you must always bear in mind that God's electing of us was in order to call us to holiness of life" - John Calvin

—> Holiness is the destination of predestination

—>

1. Gospel _____

2. Gospel _____

3. Gospel _____

4. Gospel _____

Westminster Confession of Faith — Chapter 3: Of God's Eternal Decree

1. God from all eternity did, by the most wise and holy counsel of his own will, freely and unchangeably ordain whatsoever comes to pass;^a yet so as thereby neither is God the author of sin,^b nor is violence offered to the will of the creatures, nor is the liberty or contingency of second causes taken away, but rather established.^c

a. [Rom 9:15, 18; 11:33; Eph 1:11; Heb 6:17](#). • b. [James 1:13, 17; 1 John 1:5](#). • c. [Prov 16:33; Mat 17:12; John 19:11; Acts 2:23; 4:27-28](#).

2. Although God knows whatsoever may or can come to pass upon all supposed conditions,^a yet hath he not decreed anything because he foresaw it as future, or as that which would come to pass upon such conditions.^b

a. [1 Sam 23:11-12; Mat 11:21, 23; Acts 15:18](#). • b. [Rom 9:11, 13, 16, 18](#).

3. By the decree of God, for the manifestation of his glory, some men and angels^a are predestinated unto everlasting life, and others fore-ordained to everlasting death.^b

a. [Mat 25:41; 1 Tim 5:21](#). • b. [Prov 16:4; Rom 9:22-23; Eph 1:5-6](#).

4. These angels and men, thus predestinated and fore-ordained, are particularly and unchangeably designed; and their number is so certain and definite that it can not be either increased or diminished.^a

a. [John 13:18; 2 Tim 2:19](#).

5. Those of mankind that are predestinated unto life, God, before the foundation of the world was laid, according to his eternal and immutable purpose, and the secret counsel and good pleasure of his will, hath chosen in Christ, unto everlasting glory,^a out of his mere free grace and love, without any foresight of faith or good works, or perseverance in either of them, or any other thing in the creature, as conditions, or causes moving him thereunto;^b and all to the praise of his glorious grace.^c

a. [Rom 8:30; Eph 1:4, 9, 11; 1 Thes 5:9; 2 Tim 1:9](#). • b. [Rom 9:11, 13, 16; Eph 1:4, 9](#). • c. [Eph 1:6, 12](#).

6. As God hath appointed the elect unto glory, so hath he, by the eternal and most free purpose of his will, fore-ordained all the means thereunto.^a Wherefore they who are elected, being fallen in Adam, are redeemed by Christ,^b are effectually called unto faith in Christ by his Spirit working in due season; are justified, adopted, sanctified,^c and kept by his power through faith unto salvation.^d Neither are any other redeemed by Christ, effectually called, justified, adopted, sanctified, and saved, but the elect only.^e

a. [Eph 1:4-5; Eph 2:10; 2 Thes 2:13; 1 Pet 1:2](#). • b. [1 Thes 5:9-10; Titus 2:14](#). • c. [Rom 8:30; Eph 1:5; 2 Thes 2:13](#). • d. [1 Pet 1:5](#). • e. [John 6:64-65; 8:47; 10:26; 17:9; Rom 8:28-39; 1 John 2:19](#).

7. The rest of mankind God was pleased, according to the unsearchable counsel of his own will, whereby he extendeth or withholdeth mercy as he pleaseth, for the glory of his sovereign power over his creatures, to pass by, and to ordain them to dishonor and wrath for their sin, to the praise of his glorious justice.^a

a. [Mat 11:25-26; Rom 9:17-18, 21-22; 2 Tim 2:19-20; 1 Pet 2:8; Jude 1:4](#).

8. The doctrine of this high mystery of predestination is to be handled with special prudence and care,^a that men attending the will of God revealed in his Word, and yielding obedience thereunto, may, from the certainty of their effectual vocation, be assured of their eternal election.^b So shall this doctrine afford matter of praise, reverence, and admiration of God;^c and of humility, diligence, and abundant consolation to all that sincerely obey the gospel.^d

a. [Deut 29:29; Rom 9:20](#). • b. [2 Pet 1:10](#). • c. [Rom 11:33; Eph 1:6](#). • d. [Luke 10:20; Rom 8:33; 11:5-6, 20; 2 Pet 1:10](#).