



Senior Adult Community
Grace Fellowship Church

SO WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

Differing Beliefs in the Local Church

SESSION 2 What is God's Role in Salvation?

REVIEW & REMINDERS



PURPOSE OF THIS SERIES

This study will explore the what-why-how
of the local church
to better understand theological differences
and the biblical basis
for Grace Fellowship Church's
teaching and practice.



RESPECT



Knowing that discussions about differences in our beliefs could stir controversy and polarize believers, this study will seek mutual respect and unity along with our quest for clarity and understanding.



CLASS SESSIONS

1. How do we interpret the Bible?
2. **What is God's role in salvation?**
3. How do we find salvation?



DISCLAIMERS

- Bring your Bibles
- Not an Expert
- My Vantagepoint
- Lean-in & learn

Mark 4:10 As soon as He was alone, His followers, along with the twelve disciples, began asking Him about the parables.



SESSION 2

WHAT IS GOD'S ROLE IN SALVATION?

Soteriology



IMPORTANT TERMS

Soteriology – the study of the doctrine of Salvation

Calvinism – the theological system of John Calvin which emphasizes the sovereignty and glory of God.

Arminianism – the theological system of Jacob Arminius which emphasizes the responsible free will of man.

Provisionism – the theological system which bridges the Calvinist-Arminian gap.



GFC DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

We believe in...

The dignity and brokenness of all people created in God's image to live in love and holiness, but alienated from God and each other because of our sin and guilt, and justly subject to God's wrath.

Jesus Christ, fully human and fully divine who lived a perfect life, who took upon Himself the judgment due sinners on the cross, who was bodily raised from the dead, and ascended as Savior and Lord.



GFC DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

We believe in...

Eternal life which is a free gift given immediately and permanently to all who, wholly apart from any works, put their faith in Jesus Christ alone.



NORTH SHORE BAPTIST DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

We believe in...Election

That God, before the foundation of the world, for His own glory did elect a great multitude of men and women to eternal life as an act of free and sovereign grace. This election was in no way dependent upon His foresight of human faith, decision, works or merit.....



CENTURY'S LONG DEBATE

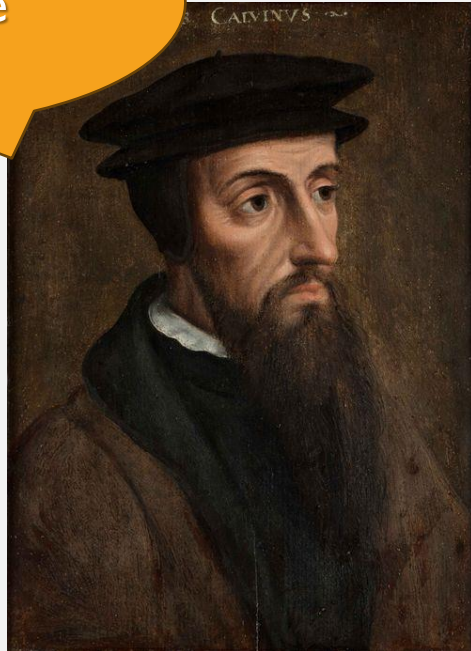
- Does a person have free will to respond to the Gospel?
- Or does God give a person faith for them to respond?

Election – Foreknowledge – Regeneration -- Predestination –
Reprobation – Supralapsarian – Sublapsarianism – Limited
Atonement – Irresistible Grace – Secret vs Decretive will –
Molinism – Monergism – Synergism
“5 point or 4 point or 3 point or no point?”



THE GREAT DEBATE

God sovereignly
chooses those
He will save.



John Calvin 1509-1564

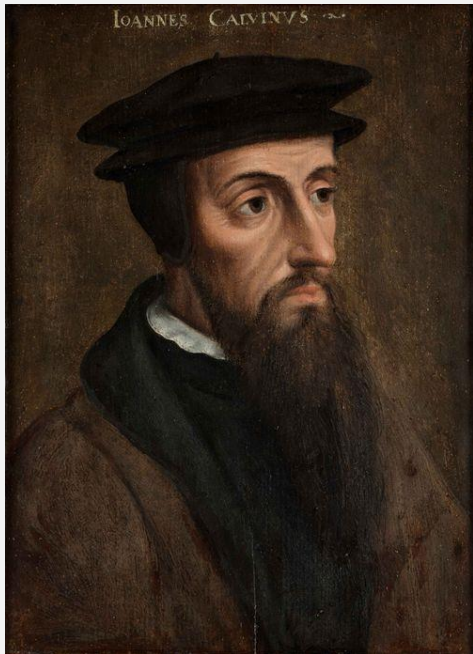
God gives the individual
free will to choose to
believe.



Jacob Arminius 1560-1609



THE GREAT DISCONNECT



Calvinists



Non-Calvinists

Same
Vocabulary

Different
Dictionary

Sovereignty

Election

Regeneration

Free Will

Dead

Foreknowledge



TWO DIFFERENT WORLDVIEWS



TWO DIFFERENT WORLDVIEWS

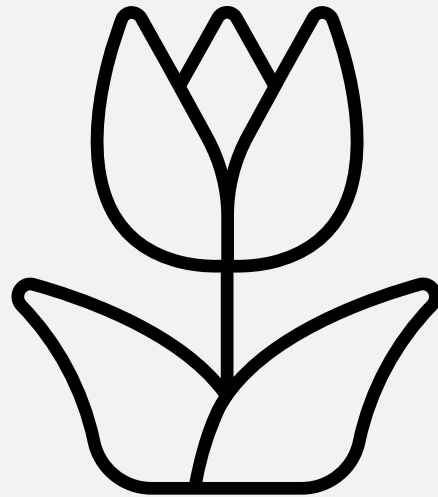


God is Sovereign
Sovereignty = Determinism
Saved by Election



God is Love
Sovereignty = Authority
Saved by Believing / Faith

WHAT IS CALVINISM?



5 Points

Total Depravity

Unconditional Election

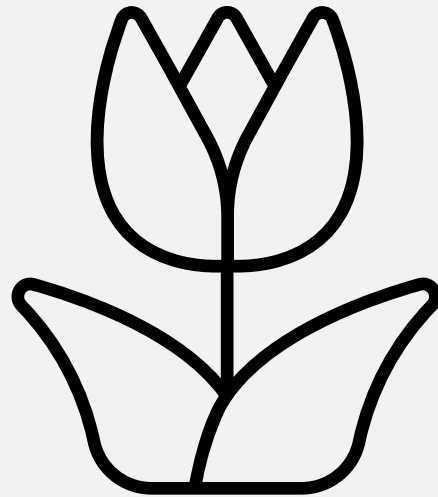
Limited Atonement

Irresistible Grace

Perseverance of the Saints



WHAT IS CALVINISM?



5 Points

Sovereignty

Total ~~Depravity~~ **Inability**

Unconditional Election

Limited Atonement

Irresistible Grace

Perseverance of the Saints



TOTAL DEPRAVITY

- As a result of Adam's sin, the entire human race is **fallen**
Romans 5:12
- All humanity is **dead** in trespasses and sins
Eph 2:1-3
- Each person's will is in **bondage** to sin
Genesis 6:5
- Each is **incapable** of responding to God's offer of salvation
Rom 3:10-18



UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION

- Because man is **dead** in sin and unable to respond to God, in eternity past God chose (elected) certain people to be given faith and salvation.
- This choice was apart from any action or quality in that person, but **solely from God's good pleasure** to elect them (and therefore to non elect others).
- Romans 8:29-30; 9:11; Eph 1:4-6; 11-12



LIMITED ATONEMENT

- Jesus died on the cross **only for the elect**; His atoning work is limited and not for all.
- Had Jesus died for everyone, then everyone would be saved (**universalism**).
- Acts 20:28; Romans 8:32; Eph 5:25



IRRESISTIBLE GRACE

- God **draws the elect** to Himself by giving these spiritually dead individuals life (regeneration). (“Effectual Calling”)
- This regeneration makes one willing to have faith in Jesus.
- The person **cannot resist** this exercising saving faith.
- The **non-elect will remain guilty** of sin and experience eternal punishment.
- John 6:37, 44; 10:16



PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

- The elect are regenerated, drawn to Christ, given the gift of saving faith, and **continue in their faith to the end.**
- We're saved by faith alone; but **faith that saves is not alone.**
- 100% of God and 0% of the individual, so that He gets ALL the glory.
- John 10:27-29; Romans 8:29; James 2:14-17



AN “INCONSISTENT” CALVINIST

It's difficult to consistently live out Calvinistic beliefs.
Here are Common Trouble Areas:

- God causes everything - even all evil
- God condemns the non-elect though they could not believe
- God doesn't love everyone, only the elect
- God has two loves, two wills, two calls, two gospels.
- God regenerates a person before they exercise faith



AN “INCONSISTENT” CALVINIST

The Inconsistency of Four-Point Calvinism

Calvinism isn't a produce stand from which we can pick and choose which doctrines we wish to keep and pass over the rest in a sort of hermeneutical reprobation. Calvinism is an interwoven system of theology which must be accepted or rejected as a whole.

- Banner of Truth



FIVE SOLAS OF THE REFORMATION

- Sola Scriptura - Scripture Alone
- Sola Gratia - Grace Alone
- Sola Fide - Faith Alone
- Sola Christus - Christ Alone
- Soli Deo Gloria - To the Glory of God Alone



ORDO-SALUTIS

1. God's eternal decree
2. Choice of the Elect
3. Regeneration of the elect
4. Effectual calling of elect
5. Faith given to the elect
6. Repentance by the elect
7. Justification of the elect
8. Adoption of the elect
9. Sanctification of the elect
10. Glorification of the elect



GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY

Westminster Confession:

God, from all eternity, did, by the most wise and holy counsel of his own will, **freely, and unchangeably ordains whatsoever comes to pass:**

yet so, as thereby **neither is God the author of sin**, nor is violence offered to the will of the creatures; nor is the liberty or contingency of second causes taken away, but rather established.



GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY

Westminster Confession:

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



JOHN CALVIN ON PREDESTINATION

“By predestination we mean the eternal decree of God, by which he determined with himself whatever he wished to happen with regard to every man.

All are not created on equal terms, but some are preordained to eternal life, others to eternal damnation;

and, accordingly, as each has been created for one or other of these ends, we say that he has been predestinated to life or to death.”

Calvin's Institutes



POSITIVE ASPECTS OF CALVINISM

- Champion God's glory and His sovereignty
- Commitment to Jesus Christ and His redeeming work
- Commitment to inerrancy and authority of Scripture
- Passion for preaching and teaching God's word
- Call to Lordship of Christ and growing in righteousness



PROBLEM AREAS IN CALVINISM

- How is one responsible for choices if God decrees their choice?
- How can the lost be damned for rejecting what they could never accept?
- How is God good if He ultimately is the cause behind all evil?
- How does one know for sure they are one of the elect?
- How can you know you are saved until you persevere to end?



PROBLEM AREAS IN CALVINISM

- How is God “not wanting any to perish” if He is the one who creates them to be “vessels of destruction”?
- How does regeneration precede faith so that you are first born again before you believe?
- How is faith a “work” when Gal 3:5 and Romans 3:27 say faith is not a work?
- How could free will and God’s sovereignty co-exist before the Fall but cannot after the Fall?



SUMMARY OF CALVINIST VIEW

- God gets ALL the glory because salvation is ALL of Him, and nothing of mankind.
- God elects, regenerates, calls, draws, gifts with faith, forgives, justifies, glorifies.



ARMINIANISM ALTERNATIVE

Believes that humanity is depraved but able to believe with the help of prevenient grace.

Anyone can be saved by believing in Christ, but can resist God's call to salvation, and even lose their salvation if they turn away from the Lord.

True faith is verified and sustained by good works. Salvation is synergistic – God works together with the individual.



PROVISIONISM ALTERNATIVE

Believes that all are sinful and separated from God but able to turn to Christ in faith.

Salvation is conditioned on faith and all who have this faith are predestined to everlasting life- eternally secure apart from works.

Salvation is monergistic – God provides a finished work of salvation which an individual accepts or rejects.

