

# Reformed Soteriology (“TULIP”) - Week 2

6/26/22

## 1. Introduction / Recap

- Synod of Dort - “Five articles of Remonstrance” / “Five points of Calvinism.”
- “This is the one point of Calvinistic soteriology which the ‘five points’ are concerned to establish and Arminianism in all its forms to deny: namely, that sinners do not save themselves in any sense at all, but that salvation, first to last, whole and entire, past, present and future, is of the Lord, to whom be glory for ever; amen.” (Packer)
- “Unconditional Election”
  - Ephesians 1 - “he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will
  - Romans 9- “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— she was told, “The older will serve the younger.” As it is written, “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.”
- “Total depravity”
  - Ephesians 2 - “Dead in trespasses & sins”
  - 1 Corinthians 2:14 - “The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.”
  - Romans 3 - “No one is righteous ... no one seeks for God ... no one does good, no not one.”

## 2. Limited (Particular) Atonement

- Arminianism - Christ died for all people, though only those who choose to believe will be saved. God leaves the choice up to the free will of the individual.
- Reformed - The death of Jesus was only intended to cover God's elect
- The death of Jesus actually accomplishes the salvation of God's chosen people, not just the possibility.
  - Matthew 1:21 - "She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he *shall save* his people from their sins."
  - Hebrews 9:12 - "He entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves, but by means of his own blood, thus *securing* an eternal redemption."
  - Titus 2:14 - Christ "gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works."
  - 1 Peter 3:18 - "For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God"
- Not "limited," but rather "particular."
  - "We are often told that we limit the atonement of Christ, because we say that Christ has not made satisfaction for all men, or all men would be saved. Now, our reply to this is that, on the other hand, our opponents limit it: we do not. The Arminians say, Christ died for all men. Ask them what they mean by it. Did Christ die so as to secure the salvation of all men? They say, 'No, certainly not.' We ask them the next question--Did Christ die so as to secure the salvation of any man in particular. They answer 'No.' They are obliged to admit this, if they are consistent. They say 'No' Christ has died that any man may be saved, if--and then follow certain conditions of salvation. Now, who is it that limits the death of Christ? Why, you. You say that Christ did not die so as infallibly to secure the salvation of anybody. We beg your pardon, when you say we limit Christ's death; we say, 'No, my dear sir, it is you that do it.' We say Christ so died that he infallibly secured the salvation of a multitude that no man can number, who through Christ's death not

only may be saved, but are saved and cannot by any possibility run the hazard of being anything but saved. You are welcome to your atonement; you may keep it. We will never renounce ours for the sake of it." - Charles Spurgeon

- Objection: What about verses that say that Jesus died for the whole world, or that he desires that all men be saved?
  - John 3:16 - "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son"
  - John 1:29 - "Behold the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world"
  - 1 John 2:2 - "and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world."
  - 2 Peter 3:9 - "The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance."
  - 1 Timothy 2:3-6 - "This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all"

### 3. Irresistible (Effectual) Grace

- The same issue from a different angle - Does God save sinners, or does he create the possibility of salvation that it's up to the will of the person to either accept or reject?
- God's word accomplishes what it is intended for:
  - Isaiah 55:11 - "So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it."
  - Romans 8:30 - "And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified."
  - Acts 13:48 - "As many as were appointed to eternal life believed."
  - John 6:37 - "All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out."

- “His grace proves irresistible just because it destroys the disposition to resist.” (Packer)
  - Ezekiel 36:26-27 - “And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.”
  - In Acts 16, “The Lord opened [Lydia’s] heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul.”

## 4. Perseverance of the Saints

- Does God keep sinners, or does he make it possible for sinners to keep themselves?
- John 6:37 - “All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.”
- John 10:27-29 - “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand.”
- Philippians 1:6 - “I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.”
- Romans 8:38-39 - “For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”