

CALVINISM

Calvinism or Reformed Theology, originated in 1519 when there was a conflict of theology between the Lutherans and Reformed Protestants. The best known Reformer was John Calvin from Geneva, Switzerland.

There are three recognized divisions in Calvinism: 1. New Calvinism – Known as the Young and Reformed Movement. They hold to Lordship salvation, hip hop music, and also promote the continuation of the early N. T. gifts of the Holy Spirit such as tongues, prophecy, and others. The major figures in the New Calvinist Movement are John Piper, Mark Driscoll, R. C. Sproul, and John MacArthur. 2. Old Calvinists hold to the doctrine that these gifts of the Holy Spirit have ceased, also believe in Lordship salvation. 3. Hyper-Calvinism hold to the doctrine of the total sovereignty of God that denies any human responsibility (man's free will) regarding salvation. They deny that the gospel call applies to all mankind. They deny that God's forgiveness, mercy, and love is toward any person who is not the elect. All forms of Calvinism use the acrostic TULIP to help summarize their doctrine.

TULIP

T. Total Depravity – **Eph. 2:1-6; Rom. 8:7** Mankind is dead in trespasses and sins and is at “enmity against God.” **Jn. 6:33** because man is dead he cannot desire or believe to be saved or follow instructions on how to be saved. **Jn. 6:44** Being dead man cannot “accept Christ as Savior” because that would be considered “works” and accepting Christ can only happen after man is born again. **Jonah 2:9; Eph. 2:1-2** Salvation can't be offered because man is dead and the bible teaches that salvation is of the Lord. Only God makes us alive and He does that sovereignly without man's free will or asking.

U. Unconditional Election – God chooses who will go to heaven and who will not. **Jn. 15:16; Rom. 9:11-21; Acts 13:48** God does the choosing without man's help or free will. Predestination of the elect is argued using the following scriptures; **Jn. 1:12-13; Acts 13:48; Rom. 8:29-30; Eph. 1:11**

L. Limited Atonement – **Mat. 25:32-33; Mat. 26:28; Jn. 17:9; Acts 20:28; Eph. 5:25-27** Jesus did not die for all mankind, only for the elect. Jesus only bore the sins of the elect. Jesus died only for the sheep, only for the church, not for all people but only for “many” (**Isaiah 53:12**).

I. Irresistible Grace – **Jn. 6:37** The grace of God for salvation cannot be refused or resisted. **Jn. 6:44** Teaches that God the Father draws man to Jesus and His will for man to be saved is irresistible. **Rom. 9:16** According to Calvinists the Holy Spirit extends an 'internal call' only to the elect, those that have been predestined by God to be saved, and they cannot say no to the call of God to be saved.

P. Preservation of the saints – **Jn. 10:28; Jn. 6:39; Rom. 8:37-39** This 'P' reminds Calvinists of their eternal salvation. Once saved always saved. However, while teaching the doctrine of eternal security they quickly bring into question that every true believer lives a holy, pure life without backsliding or becoming carnal and falling back into sin.

TULIP REBUTTAL

T. Acts 16:27-32; Rom. 1:15-16; Rom. 10:12-13; I Cor. 1:21 According to these verses and approximately 150 verses in the N. T. salvation is freely given by God to all who will believe or have faith in the finished redemptive work of Jesus Christ, the Gospel (**I Cor. 15:1-4**).

U. Joshua 24:15; Jn. 3:15-16; Jn. 20:31; Rm. 10:9-10 According to these verses and others man certainly does have a free will to choose to accept or reject the universal call of God to be saved.

L. Jn. 3:16; Rom. 10:13; Jn. 10:9; I Tim. 2:3-6; I Jn. 2:1-2 These verses and others show that God did indeed die for all of mankind and salvation is available to everyone willing to trust Christ as Savior.

I. Mt. 23:37; I Tim. 2:3-4; Titus 2:11; II Pt. 3:9 God's grace and call to salvation is for everyone.

P. I Cor. 3:1-3; II Tim. 4:10; II Pt. 2:7-8; I Cor. 3:15 God expects His people to be fruitful and serve Him with honor. However, it is simply bible truth that many true believers have no fruit for Him.