

Calvinism

How did we get here?

- John 10
 - Jesus at the feast of Dedication
 - Asked if He was the messiah?
 - I told you – you don't believe me
 - You don't believe the works I do in my Father's name which bear witness of me
 - He also said
 - You don't believe because you are not my sheep
 - My sheep hear my voice, I know them, they follow me
 - I give them eternal life... and no one shall snatch them out of my hand.
 - My Father who gave them to me is greater than all
 - No one can snatch them out of His hand.
 - Raised some questions
 - Vs. 26 - Why aren't they His sheep?
 - Could they ever become His sheep?
 - What would they have to do to become His sheep?
 - Vs. 28
 - Why can't anyone snatch them out of His hand, or the Father's hand?

Ancient questions

- Questions like these have been argued for almost 1700 years, maybe more
 - Questions involving big words like:
 - Predestination
 - Monergism
 - Free-Will
 - Obstructable Grace
 - Limited Atonement
 - Tonight we are going to:
 - Define some terms
 - Look at John Calvin himself
 - Look at the history of how “Calvinism” developed
 - Look at the 5 points of Calvinism
 - My Purpose tonight
 - Not to prove or disprove Calvinism – Give information
 - I want you to be Berean, read God’s word and make up your mind for yourself as you pray thru it
 - » Too many of us form our opinions based on what our Pastor’s say without looking into it
 - I want you to be prepared to give an answer for what you believe – from scripture, not just opinion
 - Give scripture to show why Calvinists believe what they believe
 - Calvinists are NOT heretics
 - The things they hold on too are based on some very convincing scriptures – need to be deal with
 - Bring unity thru understanding
 - Calvinists and Arminianists are our brothers – this is an “in house argument” – NOT worth dividing over

Monergism

One handed Salvation

- Monergism – One handed Salvation
 - describes the position in Christian [theology](#) of those who believe that God through the [Holy Spirit](#) works to effectually bring about the salvation of individuals through spiritual [regeneration](#) without cooperation from the individual. This is in contrast to [synergism](#) in which God and individuals cooperate for salvation. Monergism is most often associated with [Calvinism](#) (e.g., [Presbyterians](#) and [Dutch Reformed](#)) and its doctrine of [irresistible grace](#) and in particular with historic doctrinal differences between [Calvinism](#) on the one hand and [Arminianism](#) on the other. [Lutherans](#) generally adhere to a modified and less stringent form of monergism

Synergism

Two handed Salvation

- Synergism – Two handed Salvation
 - In [Calvinism](#), "synergism" is used pejoratively to describe the [Arminian doctrine](#) of [salvation](#), although many Arminians would disagree with the characterisation. According to Calvinists, synergism is the view that God and man work together, each contributing their part to accomplish regeneration in and for the individual. [John Hendryx](#), a leading Calvinist thinker, has stated it this way: synergism is "...the doctrine that there are two efficient agents in regeneration, namely the human will and the divine Spirit, which, in the strict sense of the term, cooperate. This theory accordingly holds that the soul has not lost in the [fall](#) all inclination toward holiness, nor all power to seek for it under the influence of ordinary motives." [1] Arminians, especially of the [Wesleyan](#) tradition, might respond with the criticism that Hendryx has merely provided a description of [semi-Pelagianism](#), and they recognize that [grace precedes](#) any cooperation of the human soul with the saving power of God.
 - In other words, God has offered salvation, and man must receive it. This is opposed to the monergistic view as held by Reformed or Calvinistic groups in which objects of God's election participate in, but do not contribute to, the salvific or regenerative processes. Classical Arminians and most [Wesleyans](#) would consider this a [straw man](#) description, as they have historically affirmed the Reformed doctrine of [total depravity](#). To this, Hendryx replies by asking the following question: "If two persons receive prevenient grace and only one believes the gospel, why does one believe in Christ and not the other? What makes the two persons to differ? Jesus Christ or something else? And that 'something else' is why Calvinists believe Arminians and other non-[Augustinian](#) groups to be synergists." Regeneration, in this case, would occur only when the unregenerate will cooperates with God's Spirit to effectuate redemption. To the Monergist, faith does not proceed from our unregenerate human nature. If faith precedes regeneration, as it does in Arminianism, then the unregenerate person must exercise faith in order to be regenerated.

Reformed Theology

- Reformed Theology
 - Presupposes God's Word alone as our ultimate authority.
 - Stresses the sovereignty of God, that is, His reign over all things, meticulously determining (Eph 1:11) all that comes to pass (i.e. God is never taken by surprise).
 - Emphasizes a Christ-Centered proclamation of the gospel, that salvation is wholly of God, by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone as revealed in the Scripture alone to the Glory of God alone.
 - Views the Bible as a redemptive-historical organic unfolding of revelation which is structured by three covenants (redemption, works and grace).
- It goes without saying that those in the Reformed Tradition hold to the doctrines of grace (the five points of Calvinism), man's helpless condition apart from Christ, the necessity of evangelism and the work of the Holy Spirit who (monergistically) quickens the dead to life through the preaching of the word as God turning their heart of stone to flesh, and opening their eyes to the excellencies of the gospel (uniting them to Christ). In other words, RT stresses the way the objective, written Word together with the inner, supernatural ministry of the Holy Spirit work together. For the Word without the illumination of the Holy Spirit remains a closed book. We (the church) cast forth the seed of the gospel and the Holy Spirit germinates it, so to speak, with the blood of Christ bringing forth life in people from every nation, tribe, language, and people (Rev 14:6). RT traces its historical and theological lineage back to the theology of Christ, Paul, Augustine and to the Protestant Reformation of the 16th Century.
- More info: <http://www.monergism.com/>

Predestination

- The doctrine that God has foreordained all things, especially that God has elected certain souls to eternal salvation.
 - The divine decree foreordaining all souls to either salvation or damnation.
 - The act of God foreordaining all things gone before and to come.

Prevenient Grace

- **Prevenient grace** (also referred to as PREVENIAL) is a [Christian theological](#) concept rooted in [Augustinian theology](#)^[1] and embraced primarily by [Arminian](#) Christians who are influenced by the theology of [John Wesley](#) and who are part of the [Methodist movement](#). Wesley typically referred to it in 18th century language as *preventing grace*. In modern English, the phrase *preceding grace* would have a similar meaning.
- Prevenient grace is [divine grace](#) which precedes human decision. It exists prior to and without reference to anything humans may have done. As humans are corrupted by the effects of [sin](#), prevenient grace allows persons to engage their God-given [free will](#) to choose the salvation offered by God in Jesus Christ or to reject that salvific offer. Whereas Augustine held that prevenient grace cannot be resisted, Wesleyan Arminians believe that it enables, but does not ensure, personal acceptance of the gift of salvation.

A little history

- Early church
 - Origen (185-254 AD)
 - <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Origen>
 - Chrysostom (347-407)
 - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Chrysostom
 - Both held to a Two Handed view on Salvation
- Pelagius
 - <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pelagius>
 - British or Scottish
 - lived in Rome
 - Single handed view (opposite of the definition)
 - Men were not sinners, no sin nature
 - Believed men were born with a free will and free choice
 - Salvation came from man choosing God
 - Condemned as a heretic in 418
- Augustine (384-430)
 - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Augustine_of_Hippo
 - Philosopher and Theologian
 - Huge influence on western Christianity
 - Taught and held a two handed view
 - Later after much study believed in a one handed view of salvation
 - Developed the doctrine of Single Predestination
 - Everyone chooses hell, but God chooses some for salvation

More History

- Gottschalk of Orbias (806-866)
 - http://oce.catholic.com/index.php?title=Gottschalk_of_Orbais
 - Benedictine Monk
 - Single handed view
 - Developed - “Double Predestination”
 - Some are created to be saved and loved by God
 - Some are created to be destroyed in hell
 - Condemned as a heretic
 - Under emphasized peoples responsibility for sin
 - Taught that God was the author of sin
- John Calvin (1509-1564)
 - Bio links later
 - Gifted Bible Teacher
 - He and Martin Luther are considered to be two of the most important fathers of the Protestant Reformation
 - His teaching is considered to be the bulk of what is called today “Reformed Theology”
 - Taught
 - Double Predestination
 - Single handed salvation

Even more history

- Jacob Arminius (1560-1609)
 - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jacobus_Arminius
 - Originally held to the single handed view
 - Later adopted a two handed view
 - Taught that God foresaw who would choose to accept the gift of salvation and then He chose them to be “the Elect”
 - Taught the concept of Prevenient Grace
 - Augustinian concept
 - Basically it’s the grace that comes from God and allows us to accept the free gift of salvation
 - Augustinians would say this grace is irresistible
 - Arminius believed it could be resisted, allowed men to reject Christ.
- After his death in 1610 his followers held the “Remonstrance” (protest)
 - Protesting the popularity of Calvinism and Reformed teaching
 - Developed the 5 points of Arminianism
 - We will look at next week
- Response to the Remonstrance, the followers of Calvin (Reformed teaching) met in what is called the “Synod of Dort” in 1618-1619
 - Met 154 times
 - Developed the Canons of Dort
 - Included the 5 points of Calvinism

John Calvin

- Born in Picardy, France July 10, 1509
 - Entered school at age 12 to become a Catholic Priest
 - Studied 7 years until his father fell from grace with the church
 - Forced John to study Law instead
 - Influenced by Martin Luther's ideas about Salvation by Grace while studying in Paris
 - Forced to flee Paris in 1534 after Luther was declared a heretic
 - During this time that he left the Catholic church and began working on his signature work "The Institutes of the Christian Religion"
 - Continued to work on and revise until his death
 - Ended up in Geneva, Switzerland
 - 1537 he was appointed to the preaching office (made pastor of the Church) in Geneva by the city council.
 - Geneva had "thrown off obedience to Rome"
 - The city council (with Calvin in charge) operated as the city government and ruled it as a "Theocracy"
 - Made laws against anything Catholic
 - all forms of immorality
 - It was too much and the citizens revolted in 1538, banishing Calvin and the other council members

John Calvin

- Moved to Strasbourg 1540 and ministered to a small French Protestant congregation
 - Married and had a child (died in infancy)
 - Wife died in 1549
- Calvin was recalled to Geneva in 1541
 - New council was under pressure to return to Catholicism
 - In September of 1541 he was re-installed as the leader of the city council in Geneva
 - Charged with restoring discipline in the city
- Organized the “Reformed Church in 1542”
 - Council ratified his “Ordonnances Ecclesiastiques”
 - Rules that governed the Church

Ordonnances Ecclesiastiques

- 5 pastors and 12 lay elders who had authority
 - Enter homes and inspect annually
 - Excommunicate (banish from the city)
 - Force attendance at church
- Prohibited
 - Gambling, drunkenness, dancing, profane songs, immodest dress and all forms of theater
- Regulate
 - Colors of clothing, hair styles and amounts of food at dinner tables.
- Forbade
 - Naming children after saints, speaking ill of Calvin, the counsel or the clergy
 - The press was censored
- Punishments
 - First offenses were fined
 - Repeat offenders were banished
 - Fornicators were exiled
 - Adultery, idolatry and blasphemy was punishable by death
- Total 58 were executed, 76 were banished

Positive side

- New schools were established
- Charity was placed under municipal admin
- Despite the harsh sounding conditions
 - Geneva was a model city
 - There was order
 - It was clean
 - It was admired by all who visited
- Link to bio sites: <http://www.answers.com/topic/john-calvin>
 - Many were good, this had a few different bios that were from different view points
 - Others:
 - <http://www.tlogical.net/biocalvin.htm>
 - http://www.calvin.edu/about/about_jc.htm
 - <http://www.notablebiographies.com/Ca-Ch/Calvin-John.html>
 - http://www.desiringgod.org/ResourceLibrary/Biographies/1471_The_Divine_Majesty_of_the_Word/

The 5 points of Calvinism

- Interestingly, John Calvin, the French reformer, did not formulate what today we know as the Five Points of Calvinism.
 - This came out of the **Canons of the Council of Dort (1618)**, and subsequent statements among the many Reformed Confessions have expanded upon these matters.
 - Calvinism has been **known for outstanding scholars, theologians, preachers, and reformers**, men such as John Owen, George Whitefield, William Wilberforce, Abraham Kuyper, Charles Hodge, B.B. Warfield, J. Gresham Machen, and Charles Haddon Spurgeon.
- Those in the reformed tradition who answered the teachings of Arminius chose the word "**TULIP**" as an acrostic to summarize their answer to the Five Points of Arminianism":
- Credit for info in these slides:
 - A Biblical Critique of Chuck Smith's Study: "Calvinism, Arminianism & The Word Of God" – Ray Kane
 - <http://cominginthecLOUDS.org/freewill/calvarychapel.htm>
 - CALVINISM, ARMINIANISM & THE WORD OF GOD
A CALVARY CHAPEL PERSPECTIVE – Pastor Chuck Smith
 - <http://www3.calvarychapel.com/library/smith-chuck/books/caatwog.htm>

Total Depravity

- **1. "T" = TOTAL DEPRAVITY** - The Calvinists believed that man is in absolute bondage to sin and Satan, unable to exercise his own will to trust in Jesus Christ without the help of God.
 - *Isaiah 64:6* "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away."
 - *Romans 8:7* "Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. 8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God."
- This is why man needs a saviour, one who does it all.

Unconditional Election

- **2. "U" = UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION** - The Calvinists believed that foreknowledge is based upon the plan and purpose of God, and that election is not based upon the decision of man, but the "free will" of the Creator alone.
 - Ephesians 1:4 "According as **he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: 5 **Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself**, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. 7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; 8 Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; 9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: 10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: 11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

Limited Atonement

- 3. "L" = LIMITED ATONEMENT - The Calvinists believed that Jesus Christ died to save those who were given to Him by the Father in eternity past. In their view, all for whom Jesus died (the elect) will be saved, and all for whom He did not die (the non elect) will be lost.
- Limited atonement (also known as Particular Redemption) refers to the fact that Christ's death was not literally for every person ever born or conceived. It was a transaction whereby God paid for the sins of those He came to save and those alone:
 - Acts 13:48 "And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were believed."
- "As many as were ordained" is a clear reference to limited atonement, is it not? John 17, verses 2 and 9 indicate the same thing:
 - John 17:2 "As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him."
 - John 17:9 "I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine."
- Christ was a ransom for many, but not for all:
 - Matthew 20:28 "Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."
- No one would end up in hell if the ransom for their soul was paid. To do such a thing would violate God's justice. He would not punish both His son and the sinner for the same crimes.
 - 1Corinthians 6:20 "For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."
- Are those who were "not ordained" bought with a price? Was the ransom payment on their behalf? No. The ransom was only for "as many as were ordained" and not one more. Christ's atonement is limited to God's people - that group of people whom God ordained to be saved are referred to as HIS people:
 - Matthew 1:21 "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins."
 - Psalm 85:2 "Thou hast forgiven the iniquity of thy people, thou hast covered all their sin. Selah."

Limited Atonement

- God's people are limited to those whom God the Father gives to Christ:
 - John 6:37 "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."
- Christ's atonement is limited to God's sheep: The sacrifice of Christ does not apply to the goats (the non-elect). Christ only laid down his life for the sheep:
 - John 10:15 "As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.."
- Christ's atonement was limited to the Church:
 - Ephesians 5:25 "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it"
- Christ's atonement is also limited to those whom He predestinated, whom He called and whom He justified and to no one else:
 - Romans 8:30 "Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified."
- So we see above that Christ did not die for everyone. His death, His atonement, was limited to the elect. They are the only ones who are justified - declared just and righteous - on account of Christ's full payment of their sin debt. Everyone else will have to spend eternity in hell paying for their sins themselves. And no one will be in hell for whom Christ died. His blood was not shed in vain for any man.

Irresistible Grace

- 4. "I" = IRRESISTIBLE GRACE - The Calvinists believed that the Lord possesses irresistible grace that cannot be obstructed. They taught that the free will of man is so far removed from salvation, that the elect are regenerated (made spiritually alive) by God even before expressing faith in Jesus Christ for salvation. If a totally depraved person wasn't made alive by the Holy Spirit, such a calling on God would be impossible.
- Nothing is too difficult for God. He is capable of saving people in spite of their own will, as it was with the apostle Paul who was quite busy about his work of persecuting Christians when God decided it was time to convert Saul to Paul on the Road to Damascus. Luke describes what happened to Paul in Acts chapter 22:
 - Acts 22:4 "And I persecuted this way unto the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women. 5 As also the high priest doth bear me witness, and all the estate of the elders: from whom also I received letters unto the brethren, and went to Damascus, to bring them which were there bound unto Jerusalem, for to be punished. 6 And it came to pass, that, as I made my journey, and was come nigh unto Damascus about noon, suddenly there shone from heaven a great light round about me. 7 And I fell unto the ground, and heard a voice saying unto me, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? 8 And I answered, Who art thou, Lord? And he said unto me, I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom thou persecutest. 9 And they that were with me saw indeed the light, and were afraid; but they heard not the voice of him that spake to me. 10 And I said, What shall I do, Lord? And the Lord said unto me, Arise, and go into Damascus; and there it shall be told thee of all things which are appointed for thee to do. 11 And when I could not see for the glory of that light, being led by the hand of them that were with me, I came into Damascus. 12 And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, having a good report of all the Jews which dwelt there, 13 Came unto me, and stood, and said unto me, Brother Saul, receive thy sight. And the same hour I looked up upon him. 14 And he said, The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know his will, and see that Just One, and shouldest hear the voice of his mouth."
- Do you think in a test of wills, that man can overpower the Almighty? I think not!
 - Acts 6:10 "And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake.
 - Romans 9:19 "Thou wilt say then unto me, Why doth he yet find fault? For who hath resisted his will?"
 - 1Corinthians 3:6 "I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase."
 - Galatians 1:15 "But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, 16 To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood"

Irresistible Grace

- But, you may ask, what about verses like these:
 - *Acts 7:51 "Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist <496> (5719) the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye."*
 - 496 antipipto {an-tee-pip'-to} from 473 and 4098 (including its alternate);; v
AV - resist 1; 1
1) to fall upon, run against
2) to be adverse, oppose, strive against *2Timothy 3:8 "Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist <436> (5731) the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith."*
 - 436 anthistemi {anth-is'-tay-mee} from 473 and 2476;; v
AV - resist 9, withstand 5; 14
1) to set one's self against, to withstand, resist, oppose
2) to set against We must remember that it is the nature of unsaved man to resist God, to fight against Him, to rebel. That is why we need God to transform us into new creatures who do not continually resist God just as God transformed Saul the rebel, who was actively resisting God, into Paul the Apostle:
 - *Acts 9:5 "And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: [it is] hard for thee to kick against the pricks."*
- When we examine this conversion experience in Paul's life we see him at one moment "kicking against the pricks" and then at the next moment he is asking Jesus "what wilt thou have me to do?". God was not at Paul's mercy hoping that Paul would stop persecuting the Church and hoping that Paul would stop resisting the Holy Spirit. It was clearly Paul who was at God's mercy and who was subject to God's will and God's instructions, not the other way around, as we see in Acts 9:6:
 - *Acts 9:6 "And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do."*
- Paul was trembling - he had a fear of the Lord. God had converted him at this point. He was aware of who Christ was and who he had been persecuting and he was now willing and able to do the Lord's bidding and forsake his own previous self-righteous agenda.

Perseverance of the Saints

- 5. "P" = PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS - The Calvinists believed that salvation is entirely the work of the Lord, and that man has absolutely nothing to do with the process. The saints will persevere because God will see to it that He will finish the work He has begun.
- We might get the impression that we can lose our salvation (fall from grace) when looking at the following isolated verse:
 - Galatians 5:4 "Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace."
- But then when we look at the verse that immediately follows, we get additional information regarding what Paul was talking about:
 - Galatians 5:5 "For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith"
- Paul is saying here in Galatians that salvation (i.e. Christ's righteousness) is received by faith, not by the works of the law. His point is not that we can fall from grace. He is telling the Galatians that they are missing the whole meaning of grace if they think they are justified by the law. In fact, this point is the main reason for him writing the epistle to the Galatians. The Greek word for 'fallen' is 'ekpipto' which means "to be driven out of one's course". So the Galatians were falling off course with respect to their understanding of the Gospel of grace. So was Paul telling the Galatians they were in danger of losing their salvation? Not in view of 2 Timothy 1:9, Jude 1:24, and other verses mentioned above, and we are not at liberty to ignore these other verses.