

A Biblical Examination of **Reformed Theology**

AKA: CALVINISM



Total Inability

Unconditional Election

Limited Atonement

Irresistible Grace

Perseverance of The Saints

A Biblical Examination of:

Reformed Theology

THE POINTS ARE
INTER-DEPENDENT

The Five Points of Calvinism

Total Depravity
Unconditional Election
Limited Atonement
Irresistible Grace
Perseverance of the Saints



A Biblical Examination of:

Reformed Theology

CALVINISM: DOMINO THEOLOGY

T.U.L.I.P.



When One Falls
They All Fall

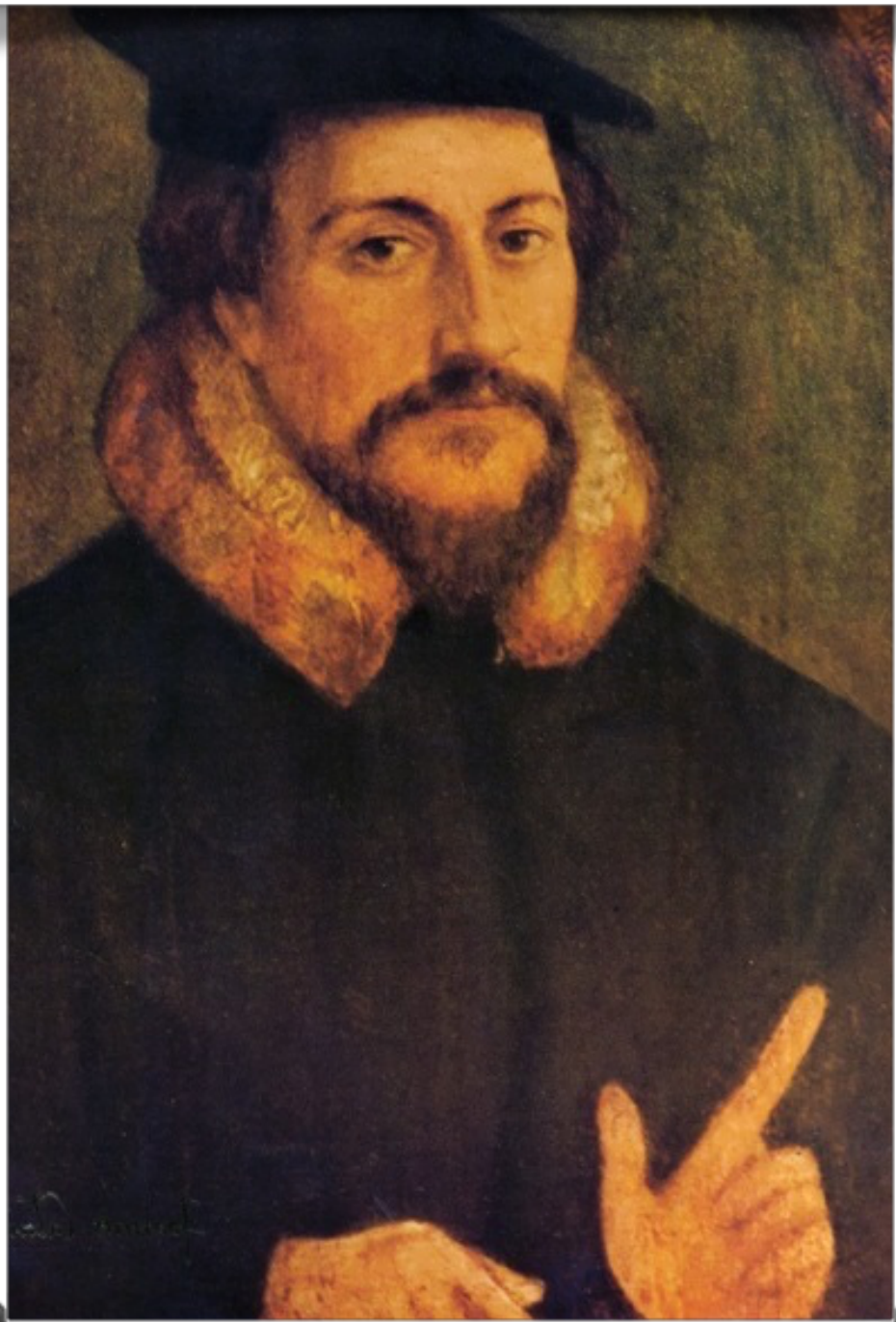
THE POINTS ARE
INTER-DEPENDENT

A Biblical Examination of:

Reformed Theology

UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION

TO DEFINE



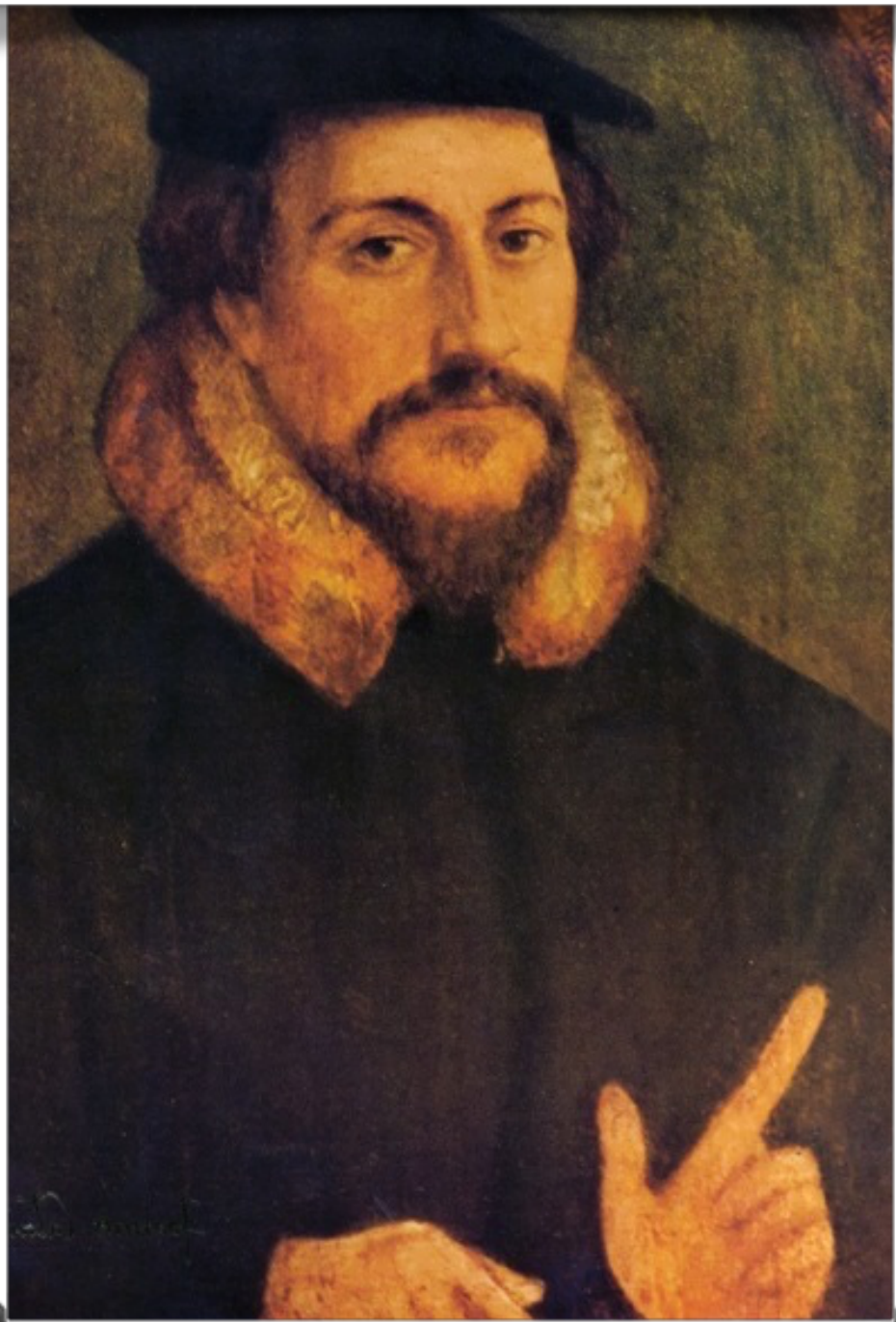
- **Unconditional Election**, proceeds from the first point of Reformed theology, “Total Depravity.”
- Remember, *they* say, mankind is so totally depraved men **cannot respond in faith** to God’s word—people cannot choose to obey — God has to choose for them.
- “**Unconditional Election**” states that God chooses some to be regenerated, giving them the ability to believe and thereby be justified.

A Biblical Examination of:

Reformed Theology

UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION

TO DEFINE



- **Unconditional Election** states that God, with no regard to the will of man, made an eternal choice of certain persons unto eternal life and some to eternal damnation and that number is so fixed that it cannot be changed.
- Rooted in a misunderstanding and false view of the sovereignty of God, Unconditional Election is logically connected with what the reformed position is concerning the doctrine of predestination.

A Biblical Examination of:

Reformed Theology

UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION

THE WESTMINSTER CONFESSION OF FAITH

“God has predestined and foreordained some men and angels to everlasting life out of His free grace and love without any foresight of faith or works in man or perseverance in either of them, and others are foreordained to everlasting death and the number of either is so certain and definite that it cannot be increased or diminished.”

— (*Chap. III, art. 3,4 &5; Chap. X, art. 2*)

A Biblical Examination of:

Reformed Theology

UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, U.S.A.

“God from all eternity did by the most wise and holy counsel of his own will, freely and unchangeably ordain whatsoever comes to pass ... By the decree of God, for the manifestation of his glory, some men and angels are predestined unto life, and others foreordained to everlasting death. These angels and men, thus predestinated and foreordained, are particularly and unchangeably designed; and their number is so certain and definite it cannot be either increased or diminished.” (Chap. III)

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Reformed Theology

UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION

THE BAPTIST CONFESSION OF FAITH OF 1689

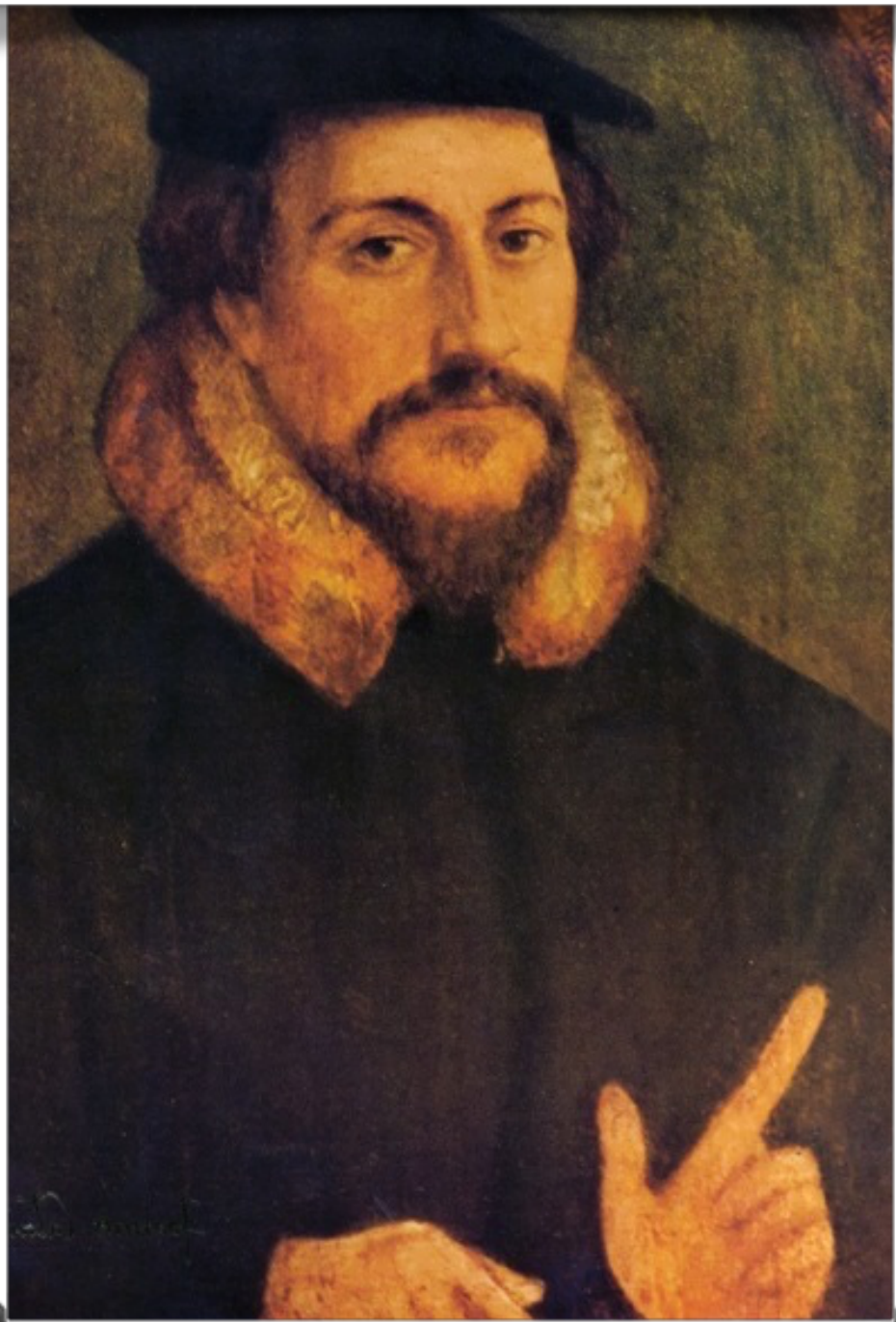
“Those of mankind who are predestinated unto Life, God, before the foundation of the world was laid, according to His eternal and immutable Purpose, and the secret counsel and good pleasure of His will, hath chosen in Christ to everlasting glory, out of His mere free grace and love, without any other thing in the creature as a condition or cause moving Him thereunto.”

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Reformed Theology

UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION

TO DEFINE



“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.”

A Biblical Examination of:

Reformed Theology

UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION

"God's choice of certain individuals unto salvation before the foundation of the world rested solely in His own sovereign will. His choice of particular sinners was not based on any foreseen response of obedience on their part, such as faith, repentance, etc. On the contrary, God gives faith and repentance to each individual whom He selected. These acts are the result, not the cause of God's choice. Election therefore was not determined by or conditioned upon any virtuous quality or act foreseen in man. Those whom God sovereignly elected He brings through the power of the Spirit to a willing acceptance of Christ. Thus God's choice of the sinner, not the sinner's choice of Christ, is the ultimate cause of salvation."

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UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION

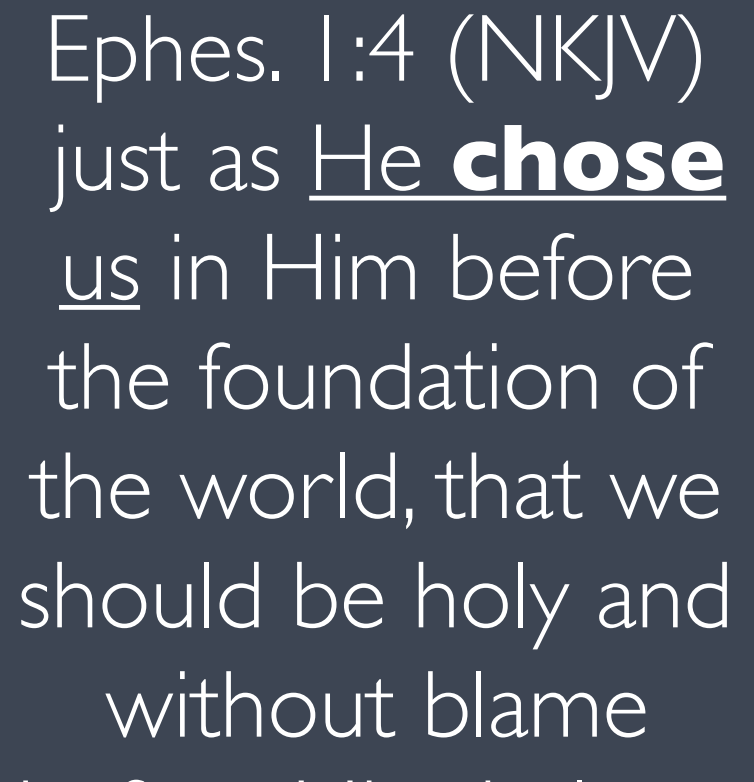
TO DEFINE

Chose - ἐκλέγομαι - eklegomai

Middle voice from G1537 and G3004 (in its primary sense); to *select*: - make choice, choose (out), chosen.

Peoples New Testament — *B. W. Johnson*

... This does not affirm that God chose some individuals and rejected others, but that before the world was, before there was Jew or Gentile, God chose to have a people for himself, the whole church of Christ, a covenant people confined to no one earthly race.



Ephes. 1:4 (NKJV)
just as He **chose**
us in Him before
the foundation of
the world, that we
should be holy and
without blame
before Him in love,

A Biblical Examination of:

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UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION

TO DEFINE

Predestined - προορίζω - proorizō

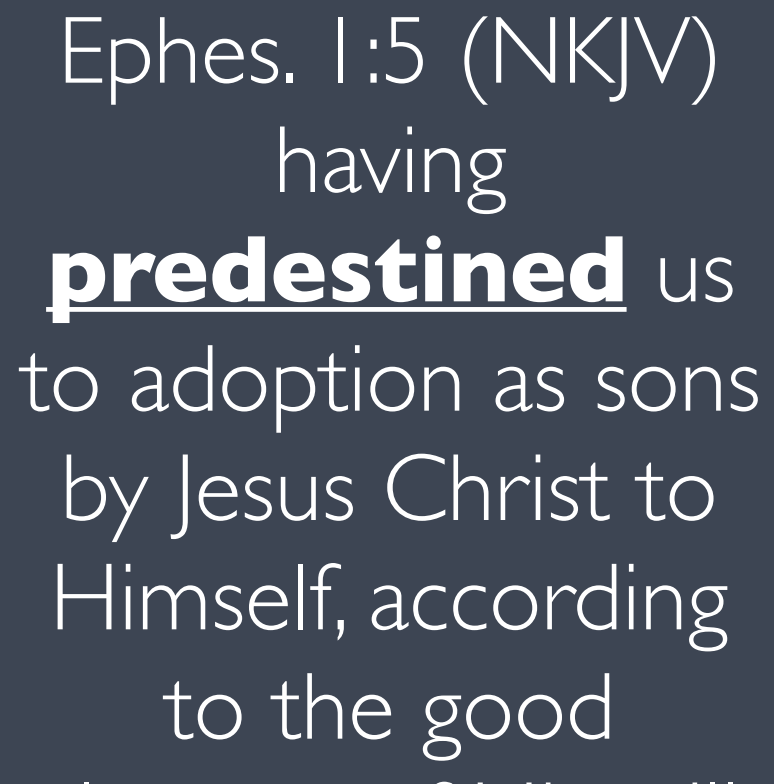
Strong's - to *limit in advance*, that is, (figuratively) *predetermine*: - determine before, ordain, predestinate.

Thayer Definition: G4309 –

1) to predetermine, decide beforehand

2) in the NT of God decreeing from eternity

3) to foreordain, appoint beforehand



Ephes. 1:5 (NKJV)
having
predestined us
to adoption as sons
by Jesus Christ to
Himself, according
to the good
pleasure of His will,

A Biblical Examination of:

Reformed Theology

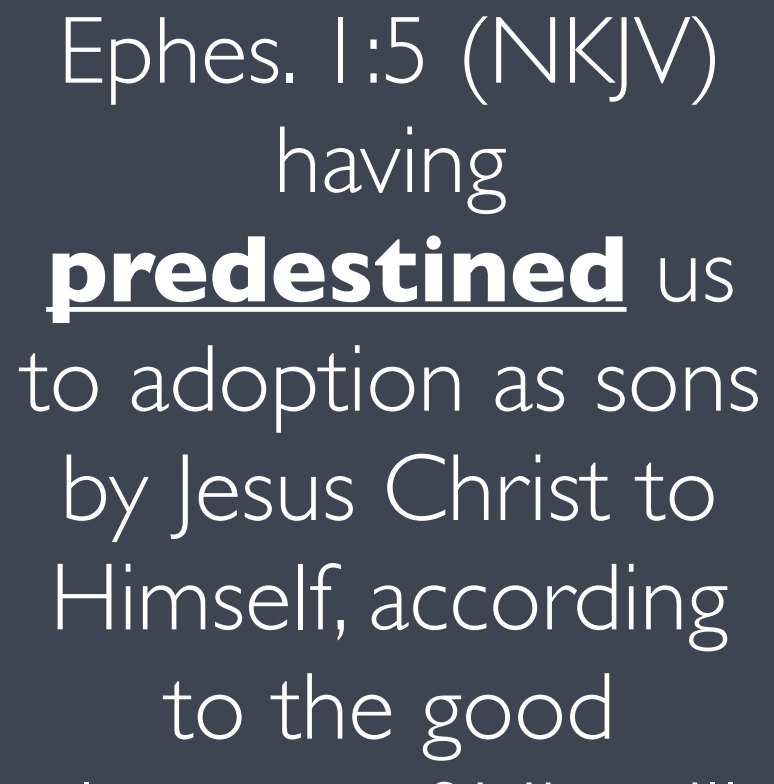
UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION

TO DEFINE

Predestined - προρίζω prōrizō

Means properly “to set bounds before;” and then to “pre-determine.” It is originally a geographical term, but applied also to any thing concluded, or determined, or demonstrated.

Here the word is used to point out God’s fixed purpose or predetermination to bestow upon those who believe the gospel the blessing of the adoption of sons by Jesus Christ, (Eph. 1:5, 13)



Ephes. 1:5 (NKJV)
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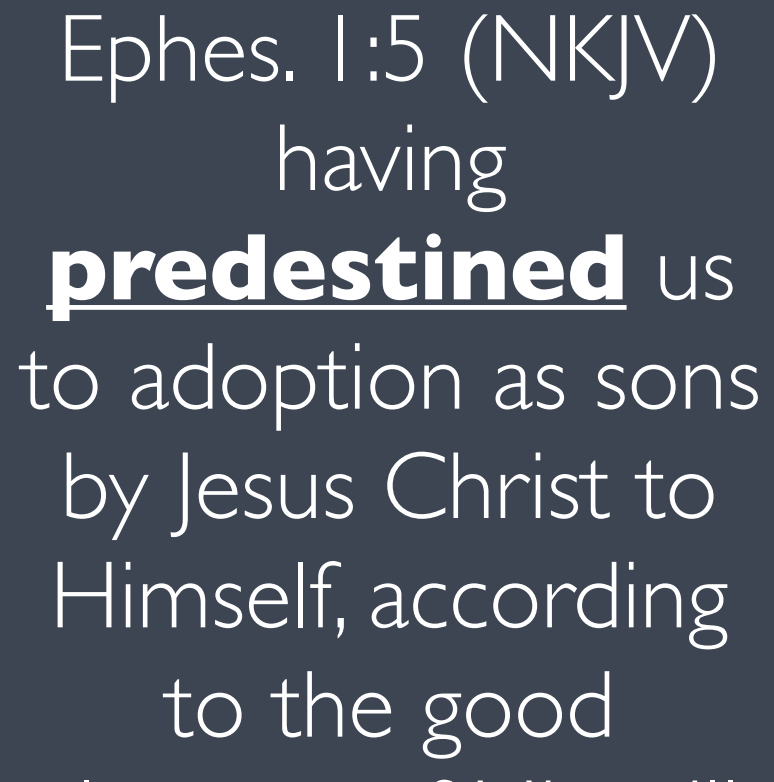
UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION

TO DEFINE

Predestined - προρίζω prōrizō

Peoples New Testament – Having predestinated us. Foreordained that we, the church of Jesus Christ, should be adopted as his children.

The whole line of argument is general instead of particular. God foreordained a church which should be composed of those adopted as his children.



Ephes. 1:5 (NKJV)
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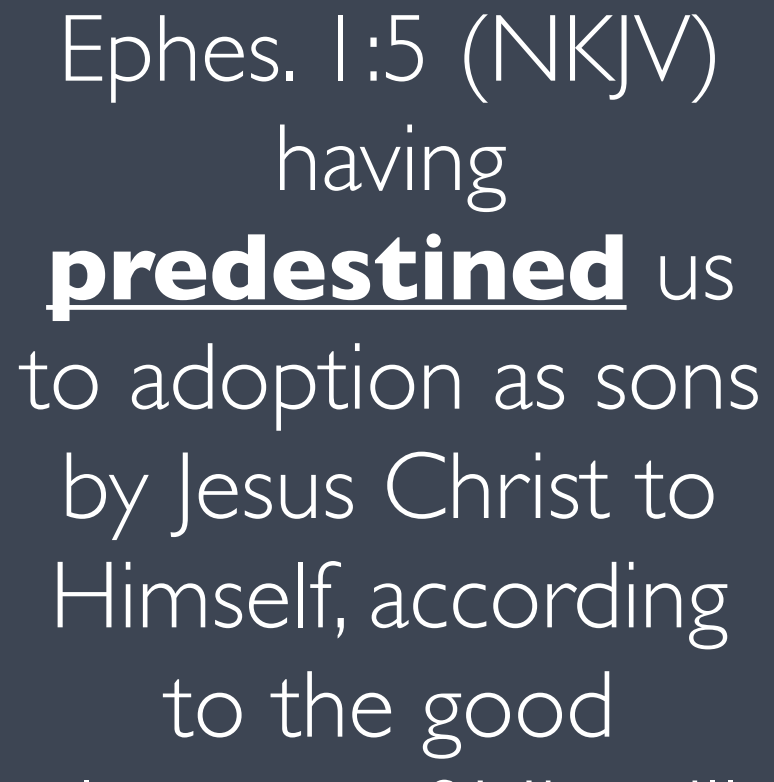
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UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION

TO DEFINE

Predestination refers to God's creation of man and His determination beforehand of the conditions through which man might live with Him eternally.

It concerns the Father's predetermination that all people who meet His conditions would live eternally in heaven and all who refuse submission to those conditions would suffer eternal damnation.



Ephes. 1:5 (NKJV)
having
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UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION

PROPOSED PROOF TEXT



Acts 13:48 (ESV)

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.

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Reformed Theology

UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION

PROPOSED PROOF TEXT



- **The argument:** God, before the foundation of the world, appointed only certain individuals to life.
- **Those who believed became part of those who had been appointed to eternal life.**

A Biblical Examination of:

Reformed Theology

UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION

PROPOSED PROOF TEXT



Romans 8:28–30 (NKJV)

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose.

²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. ³⁰ Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

A Biblical Examination of:

Reformed Theology

UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION

PROPOSED PROOF TEXT



- **The argument:** God, before the foundation of the world, predestinated certain individuals to salvation.
- Under consideration in this passage are: “**Those who love God**” (v. 28), not just a few who God loves. “Those who are called according to His purpose.” (v. 28; cf 2 Thes. 2:14)
- Those who hear, believe, and respond in obedience are referred to as being “**called.**” (Gal. 1:6; Heb. 9:15; 1 Pet. 2:9)

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Reformed Theology

UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION

PROPOSED PROOF TEXT



Ephesians 1:4–5,11 (NKJV)

⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, ⁵ having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, ... ¹¹ In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,

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UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION

PROPOSED PROOF TEXT

Wisdom

- ◆ God planned it before the world began – Ep 1:4; 3:11

What?

- ◆ The "chosen" would be holy and without blame in Christ – Ep 1:4; 5:27

Class

- ◆ Believers would be adopted as sons – Ep 1:5; Gal 3:26,27 – (*i.e. the means & conditions*)

Motive?

- ◆ This plan is according to God's good pleasure – Ep 1:5,10-13

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UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION

PROPOSED PROOF TEXT

Who?

- ◆ The faithful in Christ – (1,4,5,13)

Where?

- ◆ Those In Christ's body, i.e. church, (1-13; 2:16; *cf. Rom 16:13*)

How?

- ◆ By grace through faith – (2,7,13; 2:8-10)

When?

- ◆ Baptized Into The Family of God – (5,7,13; *cf. Acts 2:38,41; Gal 3:26,27*)

What?

- ◆ Forgiveness - Grace, peace –
Inheritance, Adoption, eternal life (3)

A Biblical Examination of:

Reformed Theology

UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION

God Chose Before The World:

The Head —

Is 42:1

**The Class, - “The
body of Christ,
i.e. the church”**

Eph 1:22,23

- ◆ The type of person - Mat 5:3-12
- ◆ The obedient - becoming members of the chosen family - Galatians 3:26,27; Hebrews 5:8,9,
- ◆ Those who make their “Calling and Election sure” - 2 Pet 1:5-10

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UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION

God Chose Before The World:



- ◆ **“ELECT – or “CHOSEN” – Yes!! –**
 - ✦ Unconditionally? – NO!!!
 - ✦ Individually? – NO!!!
 - ✦ Violate Free Will? – NO!!!
- ◆ **“Predestined” – Yes**
 - ✦ Unconditionally? – NO!!!
 - ✦ Individually? – NO!!!
 - ✦ Violate Free Will? – NO!!!

CONDITIONAL ELECTION

Baptized Into

Rom. 6:3-6

Gal. 3:26,27

Acts 2:38,47

Outside Christ Lost Without Hope

1. **NO spiritual blessings –**
2. **NOT chosen –**
3. **NOT children of God –**
4. **NOT accepted –**
5. **NO redemption –**
6. **NO forgiveness –**
7. **NO heavenly Inheritance**

Inside Christ Saved / Hope

1. **ALL spiritual blessings**
2. **Chosen –**
3. **A child of God –**
4. **Accepted –**
5. **Redeemed –**
6. **Forgiven –**
7. **A Heavenly Inheritance**

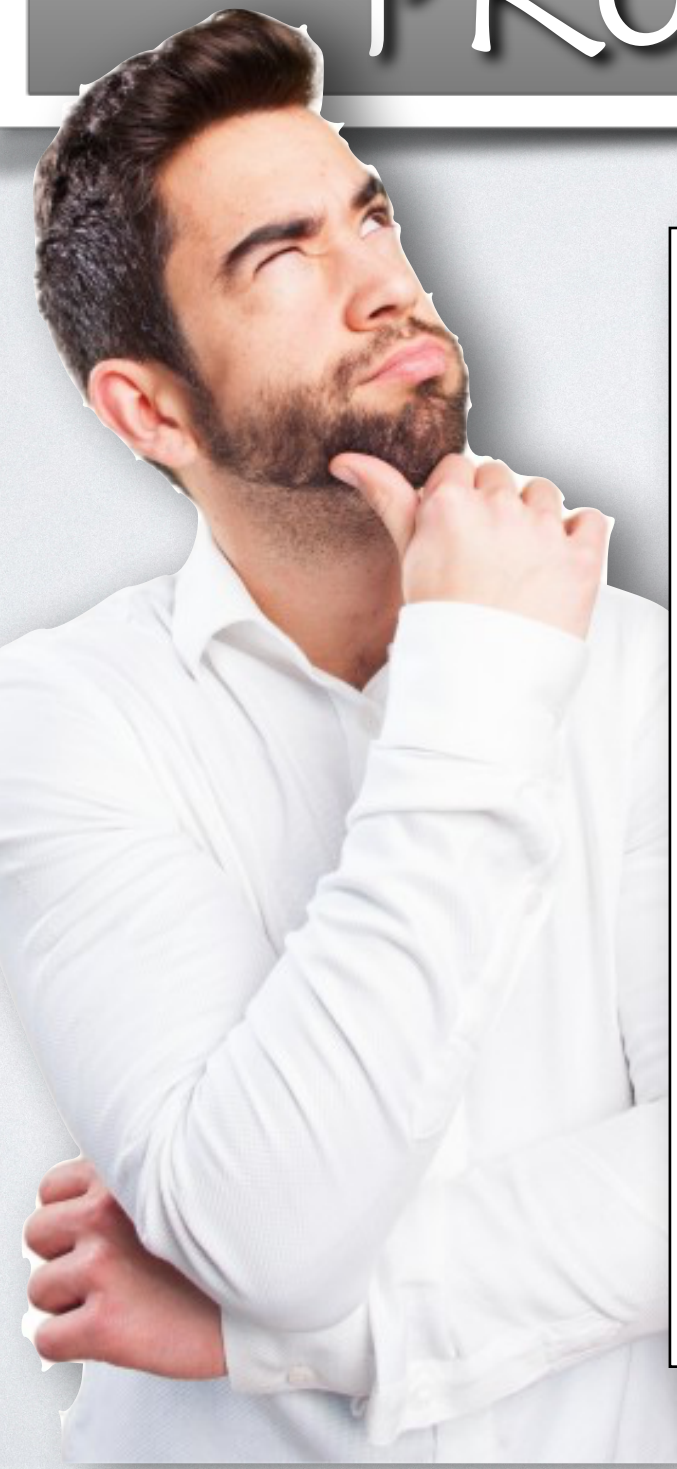
Predestined Sphere

A Biblical Examination of:

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UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION

PROPOSED PROOF TEXT



Romans 9:10–13 (NKJV)

¹⁰ And not only *this*, but when Rebecca also had conceived by one man, even by our father Isaac ¹¹ (for *the children* not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls), ¹² it was said to her, “*The older shall serve the younger.*” ¹³ As it is written, “*Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated.*”

A Biblical Examination of:

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UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION

ANSWERING ROMANS 9

Romans 9:11 (for the children not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls),

**“The Purpose Of God According To
His Choice WILL STAND” – Rom. 9:11**

“The Word of Promise” – Rom. 9:9

Not based
upon their
goodness

Not based
upon their
works

Not based
upon their
EVIL

A Biblical Examination of: **Reformed Theology**

UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION

ANSWERING ROMANS 9

Romans 9:11 (for the children not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls),

**“The Purpose Of God According To
His Choice WILL STAND” – Rom. 9:11**

“The Word of Promise” – Rom. 9:9

**Dependent Upon The
Faithfulness Of God**

A Biblical Examination of:

Reformed Theology

UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION

ANSWERING ROMANS 9

Romans 9:11-13 (NKJV)

¹² it was said to her,
*"The older shall
serve the younger."* ¹³

As it is written,
*"Jacob I have loved,
but Esau I have
hated."*

Not Emphasizing Individual Election

Genesis 25:23 (NKJV)

²³ And the LORD said to her:
*"Two nations are in your
womb, Two peoples shall be
separated from your body; One
people shall be stronger than
the other, And the older shall
serve the younger."*

A Biblical Examination of:

Reformed Theology

UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION

ANSWERING ROMANS 9

Romans 9:11-13 (NKJV)

¹² it was said to her,
*"The older shall
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As it is written,
*"Jacob I have loved,
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Not Emphasizing Individual Election

Malachi 1:2-3 (NKJV)

² "I have loved you," says the LORD. "Yet you say, 'In what way have You loved us?' Was not Esau Jacob's brother?" Says the LORD. "Yet Jacob I have loved; ³ But Esau I have hated, And laid waste his mountains and his heritage For the jackals of the wilderness." (cf. 4)

A Biblical Examination of:

Reformed Theology

UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION

ANSWERING ROMANS 9



- God preserved the Messianic lineage through which Christ came.
- The ones NOT chosen “Ishmael & Esau” are NOT thereby condemned to hell; they are simply excluded from having a part in the working out of God’s redemptive plan.

A Biblical Examination of:

Reformed Theology

UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION

ANSWERING ROMANS 9

God chose Jacob
over Esau?

God raised up
Pharaoh –

The potter clay
metaphor –

To demonstrate that God
did not choose Israel as a
nation for salvation, but
that He chose Israel as a
nation to provide the
Savior.

A Biblical Examination of:

Reformed Theology

UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION

ANSWERING ROMANS 9

God chose Jacob
over Esau?

God raised up
Pharaoh –

The potter clay
metaphor –

To demonstrate
that God sets the
terms of mercy and
not Israel.

A Biblical Examination of:

Reformed Theology

UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION

ANSWERING ROMANS 9

God chose Jacob
over Esau?

God raised up
Pharaoh –

The potter clay
metaphor –

To demonstrate from Old
Testament scripture
man's need and ability to
repent and God's
sovereign right to
demand that he do so.

A Biblical Examination of:

Reformed Theology

UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH?



- ▶ God has created EVERY man with the ability to choose faith! — Jos. 24:15; Acts 17:26-27
- ▶ God's invitation to all men genuine! — Rev. 22:17
- ▶ All who accept God's call to have faith in Christ become a part of the elect body - all those in Christ — Eph 1:3-11

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UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION

CANNOT BE TRUE BECAUSE:



- ▶ God desires that ALL MEN come to a knowledge of the truth and be saved! — (1 Tim 2:4)
- ▶ The grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to ALL MEN! — (Titus 2:11,12)
- ▶ God is NOT willing that ANY should perish but that ALL should come to repentance! — (2 Peter 3:9)
- ▶ Jesus died for the sins of the WHOLE WORLD! — (1 John 2:1,2)

A Biblical Examination of:

Reformed Theology

UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION

GOD OF CALVINISM

Partial

Unjust

Unfair

Unholy

Responsible -
All Evil / Lost Men

GOD OF THE BIBLE

Impartial

Just

Fair

Holy

Responsible -
Good / Salvation

A Biblical Examination of:

Reformed Theology

CALVINISM: DOMINO THEOLOGY

T.U.L.I.P. *When One Falls* **They All Fall**



THE POINTS ARE
INTER-DEPENDENT

Charts by Don McClain

Preached November 11, 2018

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