

A Biblical Examination of **Reformed Theology**

AKA: CALVINISM



Total Inability

Unconditional Election

Limited Atonement

Irrresistible 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

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IRRESISTIBLE GRACE

TO DEFINE



- The fourth basic doctrine of Calvinism is Irresistible Grace. (also called Efficacious or Invincible Grace).
- Efficacious Grace, we are told, is an immediate, miraculous transformation of a man's nature
- The totally depraved sinner - who has been unable and unwilling to make the slightest move toward God - is given a new nature. He is born again unto a life he never sought and never desired.

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- The doctrine is predicated on the preceding tenets of Calvinism -
 - ▶ A persons depraved inability is made capable by the Holy Spirit - the dead is made alive - born again - regenerated ...
 - ▶ This ONLY happens to those whom God has unconditionally chosen & predestined.
 - ▶ Those for whom Jesus died are awakened and given faith in order for them to be justified.

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TO DEFINE

The Westminster Confession of Faith.

“All those whom God hath predestinated unto life, and those only, he is pleased, in his appointed and accepted time, effectually to call, by his word and Spirit, out of that state of sin and death in which they are by nature, to grace and salvation by Jesus Christ; enlightening their minds spiritually and savingly to understand the things of God; taking away their heart of stone, and giving unto them an heart of flesh; renewing their wills, and by his almighty power determining them to that which is good, and effectually drawing them to Jesus Christ; yet so as they come most freely, being made willing by his grace” (Chap. X, Sect. 1).

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David N. Steele and Curtis C. Thomas.

“The gospel invitation extends a call to salvation to every one who hears its message. It invites all men without distinction to drink freely of the water of life and live. It promises salvation to all who repent and believe. But this outward general call, extended to the elect and non-elect alike, will not bring sinners to Christ. Why? Because men are by nature dead in sin and are under its power. They are of themselves unable and unwilling to forsake their evil ways and to turn to Christ for mercy. Consequently, the unregenerate will not respond to the gospel call to repentance and faith.”

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“... No amount of external threatenings or promises will cause blind, deaf, dead, rebellious sinners to bow before Christ as Lord and to look to Him alone for salvation. Such an act of faith and submission is contrary to the lost man's nature. ...

Therefore, the Holy Spirit, in order to bring God's elect to salvation, extends to them a special inward call in addition to the outward call contained in the gospel message. Through this special call the Holy Spirit performs a work of grace within the sinner which inevitably brings him to faith in Christ.

Although the general outward call of the gospel can be, and often is, rejected, ... “

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“... the special inward call of the Spirit never fails to result in the conversion of those to whom it is made. This special call is not made to all sinners but is issued to the elect only! The Spirit is in no way dependent upon their help or cooperation for success in His work of bringing them to Christ. It is for this reason that Calvinists speak of the Spirit’s call and of God’s grace in saving sinners as being ‘efficacious,’ ‘invincible,’ or ‘irresistible.’ For the grace which the Holy Spirit extends to the elect cannot be thwarted or refused, it never fails to bring them to true faith in Christ!” (David N. Steele, Curtis C. Thomas, op. cit., pp. 48-49).

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PROPOSED PROOF TEXT



Acts 16:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ Now a certain woman named Lydia heard *us*. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul.

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PROPOSED PROOF TEXT



Acts 16:14 (NKJV)

- ▶ Lydia began as a worshiper of God. (vv. 13,14)
- ▶ After she heard Paul, Silas and Timothy preaching, her heart was then opened. (v. 14)
- ▶ She responded and obeyed the Lord. (v. 15)

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PROPOSED PROOF TEXT



Romans 8:6–7 (NKJV)

⁶ For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. ⁷

Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.

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PROPOSED PROOF TEXT



Romans 8:6–7 (NKJV)

- ▶ The context makes it clear that being carnally minded or spiritual minded is a choice, - vs 1,2, 5, 13
- ▶ The broader context also indicates that the carnal mind pertains to the one under the Law in contrast to the one who has accepted the gospel - Romans 1:16,17; 3:19-7:25

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1 Corinthians 2:13–14 (NKJV)

¹³ These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. ¹⁴ But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

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PROPOSED PROOF TEXT



1 Corinthians 2:13–14 (NKJV)

- ▶ This text is dealing with inspiration & the source of what the apostles revealed - “words” which were given by the Holy Spirit - 10-12
- ▶ The natural man is the same as the Jews who seek a sign and the Greek who seeks human wisdom (20-25) - such will not believe.

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PROPOSED PROOF TEXT



John 6:44 (NKJV)

44 No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.


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PROPOSED PROOF TEXT

John 6:44 (NKJV)

- 
- ▶ Context - look at the next verse - it tells us how the Father draws - (45)
 - ▶ Those who rejected Moses, John the baptist, and the works of Christ could NOT COME to the Father - (chp 5,6)
 - ▶ God draws, (*i.e. attracts*) men with His love, which is declared in His words and Actions. — Jn 12:32

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PROPOSED PROOF TEXT

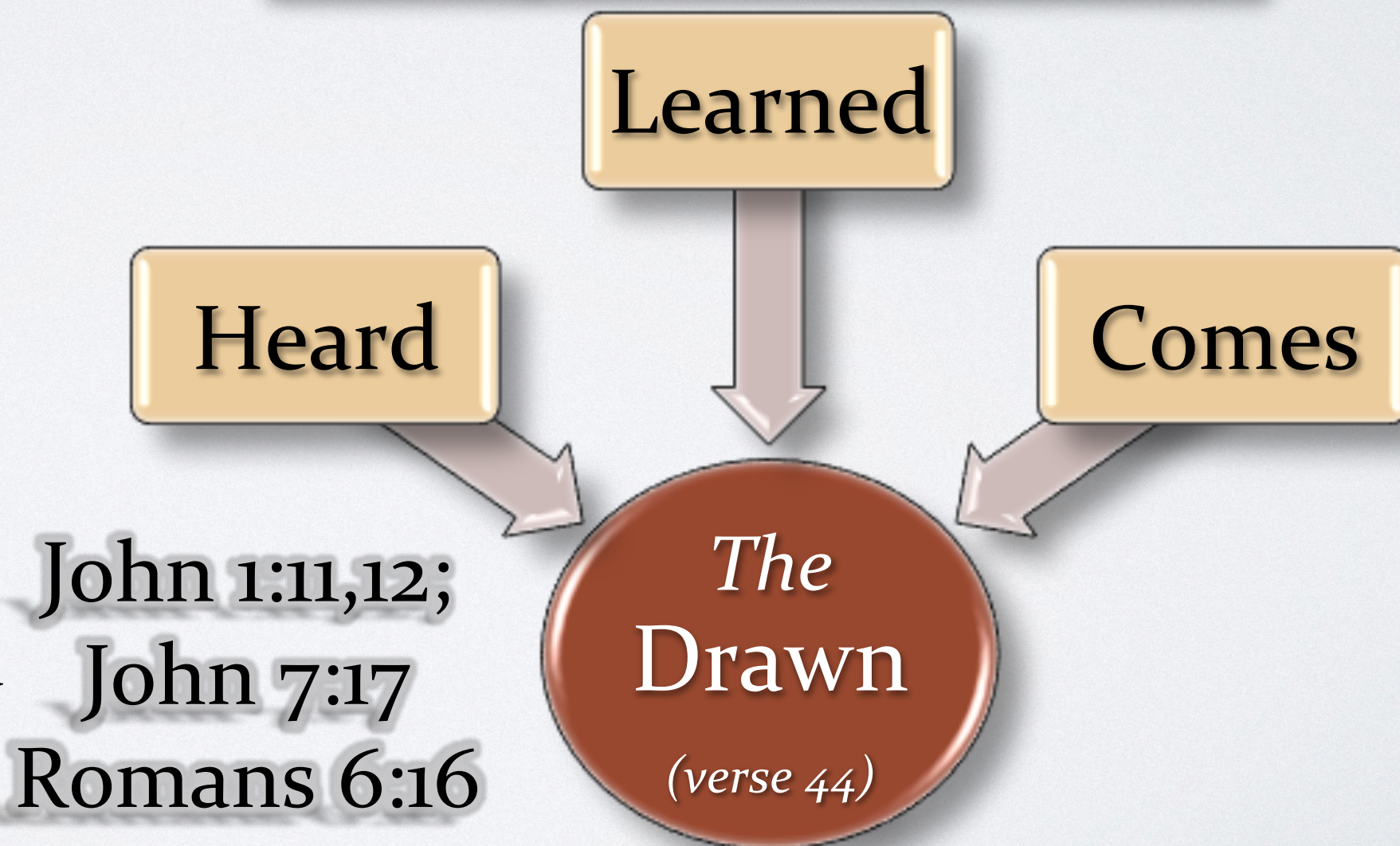
John 5:34; 6:63,68
(NKJV)

... I have said **these things** that you may be saved.

6:63 ... The words that I speak to you are spirit, and *they* are life.

6:68 ... "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have **the words** of eternal life.

'And they shall all be taught by God.' – (Isaiah 54:13)



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Ephesians 2:8–9 (NKJV)

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.



A Biblical Examination of:

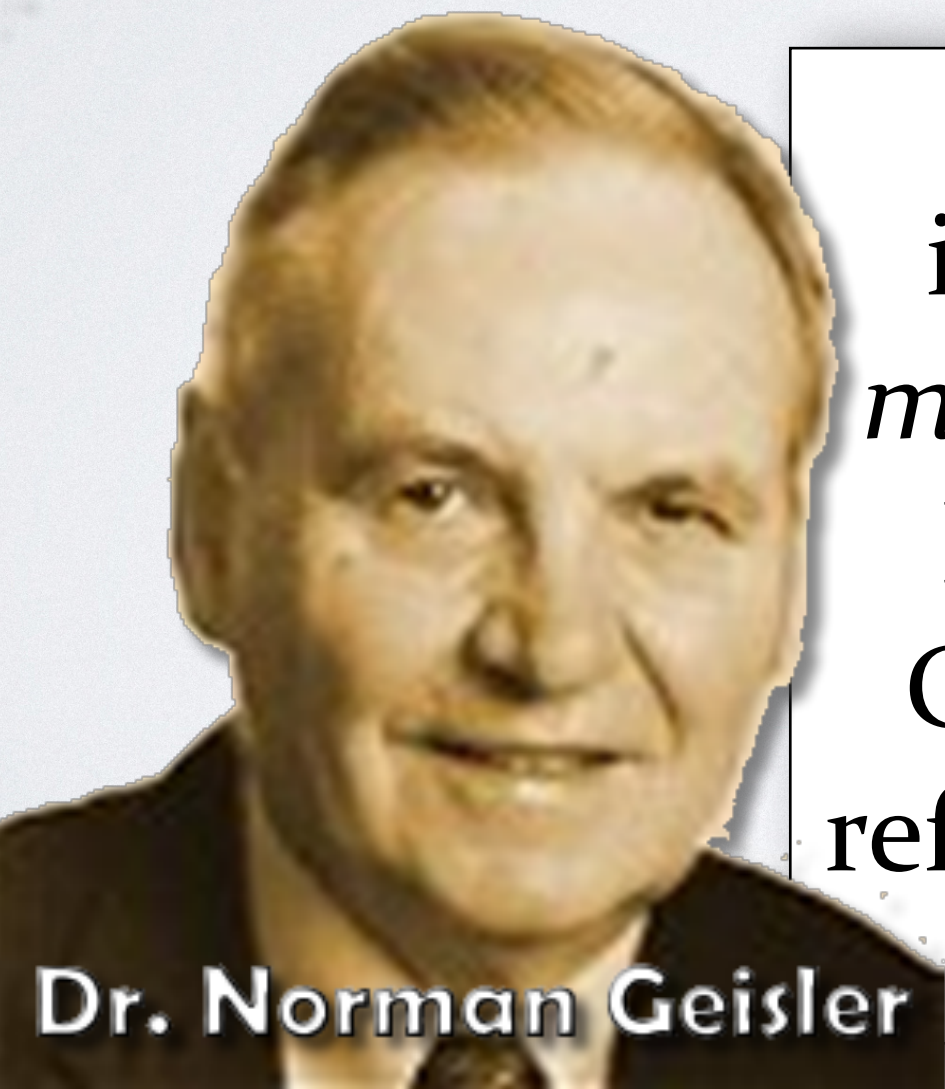
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PROPOSED PROOF TEXT

Ephesians 2:8–9 (NKJV)

“However plausible this interpretation, (*i.e. faith being a miraculous gift, DM*), may seem in English, it is very clear from the Greek that Ephesians 2:8,9 is not referring to faith as a gift from God.”
(Chosen But Free, page 189)



Dr. Norman Geisler

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WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH?



Titus 2:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ For the grace of
God that brings
salvation has
appeared to all
men,

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WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH?



- ▶ People are called by God to salvation by the gospel.
 - Called by the gospel. (2 Thes. 2:14)
 - God's power to save - (Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 1:18ff; 1 Thes 2:13; Heb 4:12)
- ▶ Faith comes by the hearing of God's word ...
 - Romans 10:17
 - John 20:30,31

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WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH?



- ▶ God's grace can be resisted ...
 - The grace of God has appeared to all men - but most reject it - (Titus 2:11,12; cf. Mat 23:37)
 - The Holy Spirit's message can be rejected - (Acts 7:51)
- ▶ God's desire & will is that all be saved ... Acts 17:26,27; 1 Tim 2:3,4; 2 Pet 3:9; - But Men reject - Isa. 65:2-5; Acts 13:46,47; Rom 10:21;

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CANNOT BE TRUE BECAUSE:



- ▶ God desires that ALL MEN come to a knowledge of the truth and be saved! — (1 Tim 2:4)
- ▶ God is NOT willing that ANY should perish but that ALL should come to repentance! — (2 Peter 3:9)

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IRRESISTIBLE GRACE

GOD OF CALVINISM

Partial

Unjust

Unfair

Unholy

Responsible -
All Evil / Lost Men

GOD OF THE BIBLE

Impartial

Just

Fair

Holy

Responsible -
Good / Salvation

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



THE POINTS ARE
INTER-DEPENDENT

Charts by Don McClain

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John 6:41–46 (NKJV)

⁴¹ The Jews then complained about Him, because He said, “I am the bread which came down from heaven.” ⁴² And they said, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How is it then that He says, ‘I have come down from heaven’?” ⁴³ Jesus therefore answered and said to them, “Do not murmur among yourselves. ⁴⁴ No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. ⁴⁵ It is written in the prophets, ‘*And they shall all be taught by God.*’ Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me. ⁴⁶ Not that anyone has seen the Father, except He who is from God; He has seen the Father.