

Calvinism's Implications Of God

Intro: John Calvin (1509-1564) systemized a doctrine which we generally know by the acrostic: TULIP.

T — Total Depravity (or Total Hereditary Depravity)

U — Unconditional Election

L — Limited Atonement

I — Irresistible Grace

P — Perseverance of the saints (Once saved always saved)

In this lesson it will not be our intent to study the various parts of Calvinism, but instead to look at some of the implications of this theology.

I. MAKES GOD A RESPECTER OF PERSONS

A. Illustrated:

1. In chapter 3 of the Presbyterian Confession of Faith: “Those of mankind that 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, unto everlasting glory, out of His mere free grace and love, without any foresight of faith or good works, or perseverance in either of them, or any other thing in the creature, as conditions or causes moving Him thereunto.”
2. One Calvinist stated, “We say that God **unconditionally** chooses sinners out of ‘the one lump’ of corrupt and sinful humanity, purely by His own will.”

B. God's infinite justice would not allow Him to be a respecter of persons.

1. In salvation:
 - a. Acts 10:34 ³⁴ Then Peter opened *his* mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:
 - (1) The Gentiles had a right to hear the Gospel and obey it.
 - (2) If God did not elect a particular nation for eternal salvation, He would not elect a particular person for salvation.
 - (a) Acts 15:9 ⁹ And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.”
 - (b) Rom. 10:12 ¹² For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.”
 - b. Rom. 2:11 ¹¹ For there is no respect of persons with God.”
2. In judgment:
 - a. Rom. 2:12 ¹² For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law;”
 - b. Col. 3:25 ²⁵ But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.”
 - c. 1 Pet. 1:17 ¹⁷ And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning *here* in fear.”

II. MAKES GOD'S INVITATION FOOLISH

A. God's invitation:

1. Mat. 11:28-30 ²⁸ Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden is light.”

2. Rev. 22:17 ¹⁷ "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."

B. Notice:

1. The invitation is to "come."
2. It is for "whosoever will."
3. He can "take the water of life freely."
4. All these are senseless if Calvinism is true:
 - a. These would be of absolutely no benefit to anyone.
 - b. An invitation to come but it is impossible for them to come.
 - c. It is stated for whosoever will, but it is limited to those whom God willed.
 - d. One is to take the water of life freely, but they cannot take of that water of life.
5. View of God:
 - a. It makes a monster out of God.
 - b. Why would God invite the lost to come and take the water of life freely if He has already determined they are lost?

III. MAKES SATAN'S WORK UNNECESSARY

A. Satan is real.

B. Satan's work:

1. 1 Pet. 5:8 ⁸ "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:"
2. Two admonitions:
 - a. Be sober (to be of a calm mind or sound mind; be free from every form or mental and spiritual drunkenness; thus, exercising self-control)
 - b. Be vigilant (to be watchful and alert)
 - c. These admonitions are valueless if Calvinism is true.
3. Six things regarding Satan:
 - a. He is an adversary—an opponent in a lawsuit and as used here as the one who is on the opposite side of our trial of life and death.
 - b. He is the devil (accuser or slanderer).
 - c. A roaring lion (shows his fierceness with which he stalks the righteous).
 - d. He walks about (shows his restless energy).
 - e. Seeking (shows his persistence).
 - f. Trying to devour the saints (shows his desire to utterly destroy).
4. Why is any of this necessary if Calvinism is true?
 - a. To those already elected to salvation:
 - (1) No amount this will change their state.
 - (2) It does not matter how much Satan tempts or gets him to sin or how wicked him might be.
 - b. Satan already has the non-elect:
 - (1) There is no need for any of this since he already has control of their souls.
 - (2) It does not matter how morally good or how much he might want to obey God.
 - c. God has already done his work for him. Why seek to devour any man if such is impossible?

IV. MAKES ACCOUNTABILITY TO GOD IMPOSSIBLE

A. Man will give an account of his actions.

1. Mat. 25:19 ¹⁹ "After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them."
2. Acts 17:30-31 ³⁰ "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: ³¹ Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by *that* man whom he hath ordained; *whereof* he hath given assurance unto all *men*, in that he hath raised him from the dead."
3. 2 Cor. 5:10 ¹⁰ "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things *done* in *his* body, according to that he hath done, whether *it be* good or bad."
4. Rev 20:12 ¹² "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works."

B. There is no accountability if Calvinism is true.

1. Accountability
 - a. Man has no control over his own fate and thus is not responsible.
 - b. If a man is not responsible, then he cannot be held accountable.
2. If anyone would be accountable, it would be God.
 - a. To Calvinism, the judgment took place before the beginning of time and done in the mind of God.
 - b. There is no need for another judgment at the end of time.

V. MAKES LOVE FOR GOD IMPOSSIBLE

A. Love for God is of utmost importance.

1. Deu. 6:5 ⁵ "And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might."
2. Psa. 31:23 ²³ "O love the LORD, all ye his saints: *for* the LORD preserveth the faithful, and plentifully rewardeth the proud doer."
3. Jesus stressed this: Mark 12:30 ³⁰ "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: *this is* the first commandment."

B. Calvinism makes love for God impossible.

1. If Calvinism is true, man is nothing more than a mindless robot—robots cannot express true love.
2. 1 John 4:19 ¹⁹ "We love him, because he first loved us."
 - a. How much love does God show to that person who He consigned to eternal torment in hell before the person was born?
 - b. Thus, how can anyone love a God who would arbitrarily, despotically, and tyrannically choose to save some and send others to hell?
 - c. That type of a God would only deserve contempt.

Conclusion: Calvinism destroys the Biblical view of God and makes Him into a monster that is worthy of no one's love or devotion. It is a doctrine that must be opposed by all Bible believing people.