

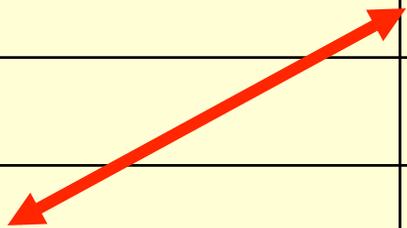
**Discipleship:  
An  
Introduction to  
Systematic Theology and  
Apologetics**

**Protestant Reformation Doctrines of Salvation**

**The Heights Church October 21, 2018**

# Review– Five Articles/ Canons of Dort

Five Articles of the Remonstrance	Canons of Dort (“Five Points of Calvinism”)
1. Conditional Election	1. Total Depravity
2. General Atonement	2. Unconditional Election
3. Free Will ( <i>Depravity</i> )	3. Limited Atonement
4. Resistible/Prevenient Grace	4. Irresistible Grace
5. Conditional Preservation	5. Perseverance of the Saints



- The Canons of Dort actually contained only four points because Articles 3 and 4 were combined into one topic and listed as Main Point Three/Four in the Canons of Dort. This showed that the Remonstrance understanding of Total Depravity was not the same as the Canons of Dort.
- When the acrostic **TULIP** was created as a memory aid, Total Depravity was placed first so that the root problem is first of the “Five Points of Calvinism.”

# Key Protestant Reformation Doctrines - Free Will Review

**Arminianism:** Although human nature was seriously affected by the fall, man has not been left in a state of total spiritual helplessness. God graciously enables every sinner to repent and believe, but He does not interfere with man's freedom. **Each sinner possesses a free will**, and his eternal destiny depends on how he uses it. Man's freedom consists of his **ability to choose good over evil** in spiritual matters; his will is not enslaved to his sinful nature. The sinner has the power to either cooperate with God's Spirit and be regenerated or resist God's grace and perish. The lost sinner needs the Spirit's assistance, but he does not have to be regenerated by the Spirit before he can believe, for faith is man's act and precedes the new birth. Faith is the sinner's gift to God; it is man's contribution to salvation. (Quoted from Romans an Interpretive Outline by David N Steele and Curtis C Thomas ISBN 978-0-87552-443-6 Appendix D Pages 144-147)

# Key Protestant Reformation Doctrines - Total Depravity Review

**Calvinism:** Because of the fall, **man is unable of himself to savingly believe the gospel.** The sinner is dead, blind, and deaf to the things of God; his heart is deceitful and desperately corrupt. His will is not free, it is in bondage to his evil nature, therefore, he will not--indeed he cannot--choose good over evil in the spiritual realm. Consequently, it takes much more than the Spirit's assistance to bring a sinner to Christ--it takes regeneration by which the Spirit makes the sinner alive and gives him a new nature. Faith is not something man contributes to salvation but is itself a part of God's gift of salvation--it is God's gift to the sinner, not the sinner's gift to God. (Quoted from Romans an Interpretive Outline by David N Steele and

# Reformed vs Arminian Soteriology – Election

- In the OT the Nation of Israel is God's Chosen People. God chose Israel unconditionally because He loved them and not because of their merit.

"For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. (Deuteronomy 7:6 -8)

And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. (1 Kings 3:8)

## Reformed vs Arminian Soteriology – Election

- There are also some passages in the OT that speak of the election of individuals. For example:

The LORD said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? **For I have chosen him**, that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may bring to Abraham what he has promised him." (Genesis 18:17 -19) **and**

"Before I formed you in the womb **I knew you**, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." (Jeremiah 1:5)

# Key Protestant Reformation Doctrines – Conditional Election

**Arminianism:** God's choice of certain individuals unto salvation before the foundation of the world was based upon His foreseeing that they would respond to His call. He selected only those whom He knew would of themselves freely believe the gospel. Election therefore was determined by or conditioned upon what man would do. The faith which God foresaw and upon which He based His choice was not given to the sinner by God (it was not created by the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit) but resulted solely from man's will. It was left entirely up to man as to who would believe and therefore as to who would be elected unto salvation. God chose those whom He knew would, of their own free will, choose Christ. Thus the sinner's choice of Christ, not God's choice of the sinner, is the ultimate cause of salvation. (Quoted from Romans an

# Key Protestant Reformation Doctrines – Conditional Election

In Article 1 the Biblical support of the doctrine of Conditional Election quotes

John 3:36: “He that believes on the Son has everlasting life: and he that does not believe the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abides on him,” and according to other passages of Scripture also.

Note: In the ESV John 3:36 is Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

- Calvinists agree with this verse. The distinguishing mark of the elect is that they believe in Christ and seek to obey him. The question is how do they believe?

# Key Protestant Reformation Doctrines – Unconditional Election

**Calvinism:** 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 or 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. (Quoted from Romans an

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## Reformed vs Arminian Soteriology – Unconditional Election

but you do not believe because you are not part of my flock. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. (John 10:26 – 29)

- If the Arminians are correct verse 26 would read you are not part of my flock because you do not believe. And it could not say they will never perish!