



KC Essentials

Week 2

**For the GLORY of our Great God
For the GOOD of our Neighbor**

Doctrines of Grace



Salvation is of the LORD!

- Our salvation is entirely from God!
- Our salvation is entirely dependent upon God!
- *It takes all of God to save all of us!* (Elect)
 - God the Father's *initiation*... (John 3:16, Rom. 5:8)
 - God the Son's *execution*... (1 Peter 2:24)
 - God the Holy Spirit's *application*... (Titus 3:4-7)

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Doctrines of Grace

Five Points of Calvinism



- The Gospel in a “Tulip”
 - *T - Total Depravity*
 - *U - Unconditional Election*
 - *L - Limited Atonement*
 - *I - Irresistible Grace*
 - *P - Perseverance of the Saints*

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Five Points of Calvinism



- Not a new teaching - held since Augustine (400 A.D.)
- Formulated in 5 points by Synod of Dort in 1619 - 55 years after John Calvin's death
- Response to 5 point doctrinal challenge of followers of J. Arminius, a Dutch professor
- Incorporated into the majority of the great creeds

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Beliefs of Arminians



1. Human ability - humanity, sinful, yet able to come to Christ on his own
2. Conditional Election - God chooses one on basis of foreseen faith
3. General Atonement - Christ died for all men, yet only those who believe are saved
4. Resistible Grace - humanity is able to reject God's grace
5. Falling from grace - humanity can lose his salvation

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Beliefs of Calvinists



1. Total Depravity - humanity is unable to come to Christ on his own
2. Unconditional Election - God chooses one based on nothing we do (**God the Father**)
3. Limited Atonement - Christ died for the elect (**God the Son**)
4. Irresistible Grace - effectual grace, it saves (**God the Holy Spirit**)
5. Perseverance of the Saints - preserved by God

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Five Points of Calvinism



- Many struggle to accept them at first - why?
- Is it fair? Is it right? Is it important? Is it Biblical?
- **Salvation is ALL OF GRACE**
- God's unmerited favor towards us, apart from anything we do, including even our believing.

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Total Depravity



- Does Mean - humanity's nature is corrupt, perverse & sinful throughout
 - Unable to do any good pleasing to God
 - Unable to do anything pertaining to his salvation
- Doesn't mean - as sinful as one could possibly be
 - As comprehensive as it could be
 - A complete absence of relative good
- Better names: pervasive evil, radical depravity or Total Inability

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Total Depravity



- Scripture teaches - fallen humanity:
 - Cannot subject his mind to the law of God - Rom 8:7-8
 - Cannot please God - Rom 8:7-8
 - Cannot understand the things of the Spirit of God - I Cor 2:14
 - Cannot bear to hear the Word - John 8:43
 - Cannot come to Christ unless the father has enabled & draws him - John 6:44, 65

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Total Depravity



- Humanity - basically Good???
- The effects of sin on man
 1. Naturally sinful
 - A. By birth - Ps 51:5
 - B. By practice - Gen 6:5, 8:21
 - C. Children of wrath - Eph 2:3
 2. Mind / conscience defiled - Rom 8:7-8, Titus 1:15

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Total Depravity



- The effects of sin on humanity
 3. Corrupt heart - Jer 17:9, Eph 4:18, Ezek 36:26
 4. Dead in sin - Eph 2:1, Rom 5:12
 5. Bound by Satan - II Tim 2:25-26
 6. Spiritually deaf - John 8:42-43, Matt 13:13-14

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Total Depravity



- The effects of sin on humanity
 - 7. In darkness - John 3:19
 - 8. Spiritually Blind
 - A. By darkness - I John 2:11
 - B. By Satan - II Cor 4:4
 - 9. Uninstructable - I Cor 2:14
 - 10. Slave to sin - John 8:34

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Total Depravity



- Sinful humanity is powerless to change his nature
- “Who can make the clean out of the unclean? No one!” Job 14:4
- “Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? Then you also can do good, who are accustomed to do evil.” Jer 13:23

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Total Depravity



- Why is the doctrine of Total Depravity so foundational?
 - Wrong view of how sin has affected humanity is liable to lead to erroneous view of how he is saved
 - Salvation is from sin, so our concept of salvation is conditioned by our view of the gravity of sin
 - It teaches that humanity is unable to do anything to save himself, therefor God must do the saving:
 - T - helplessness of humanity in sin
 - ULIP - the sovereignty of God in grace

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Total Depravity



- humanity's only original contribution to his salvation is:
 - His depraved nature - his sin
- A dark picture reminding us that:
 - All men are under the judgment and condemnation of God
 - All are hell-deserving
 - This would be our destination - were it not for the sovereign grace of God!

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Total Depravity



- Understanding the scriptural view of our sinfulness means:
 - We can be honest with ourselves, with one another, and with our God about the present reality & depth of our sin.
- *Doing so reminds us daily of our need for Jesus our Savior who loves us in spite of our past, present and future sin!*

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Total Depravity



- “No one ever thought much of grace, who thought little of sin.” - J.B. Green
- It is only against an understanding of our depravity that we can fully begin to appreciate the love of God displayed in His saving grace.
- If you struggle with the other doctrines of grace, the problem usually stems from this one.

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Unconditional Election



Five Points of Calvinism

- **U - Unconditional Election**
- That God, before the foundation of the world, chose certain individuals from among the fallen members of Adam's race to be objects of His undeserved favor, while others He passed by; His choice not determined or conditioned upon anything that man would say, think or do.
- Eph 1:3-6, I Cor 1:26-31

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Unconditional Election



- How unconditional election relates to total depravity:
- Sin has so affected humanity - he is unable to choose God. Jer 13:23, Job 14:4
- Therefore, if he is to be saved - God must do the choosing. Eph 1:4-5, John 15:16
- That's election.

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Unconditional Election



- Some chosen, others passed by - "But that's not fair."
- Fair means just - you get what you deserve - death (Rom 6:23)
- It is above and beyond fairness - it's mercy and grace.
- If He owed salvation and failed to give it - that's injustice. But He owes no one - all have rebelled.
- He is not only just, but He is also merciful & gracious to save some, none of whom deserve it.
- **Salvation is a gift from God, not a duty of God.**

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Unconditional Election



- Predestination - two sided
 1. His choosing unto life - election; showing mercy - Rom 9:16
 - A. God actively intervening in the hearts of sinners, the elect (spiritually dead).
 2. His condemning unto death - reprobation; hardening - Rom 9:16
 - B. God's passively giving sinners over to their sin, being already hardened against God
- Condemned - not because they are passed by, because of their sin

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Unconditional Election



□ Paul anticipates two objections to election:

1. “Is there injustice in God?” - Rom 9:14

- Issue never raised if based on humanity’s decision
- Our sinful thoughts - God’s not gracious enough
- He will have mercy on whom He desires; it doesn’t depend on the man who wills (Rom 9:15-16)

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Unconditional Election



- Paul anticipates two objections to election:
 2. “Why does He still find fault? For who resists His will?” - Rom 9:19
 - Issue never raised if based on humanity’s decision
 - Who are you to question what God does?
 - He, like a potter, has right over fallen humanity to show mercy to some & to endure others (Rom 9:21-23)

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Unconditional Election



- Our remaining sinfulness is even seen in our struggling regarding election with the question:

“Why not all?”

- We should be asking “Why any, Lord?” - as none deserve to be saved - or “Why me?”
- Questioning should be replaced with wonder

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Questions



- What is your biggest struggle with today's teaching?
- Why does the biblical understanding of total depravity lead us to sing "Amazing Grace"?
- Why is unconditional election absolutely necessary if total depravity is true?

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