

## **Doctrines of Grace (The Five Points of Calvinism)**

### **Total Depravity**

Because of the fall, man in his natural condition apart from any work of grace is guilty before God, hostile to God and good, inclined only toward evil continually, spiritually dead and unable to save himself. Sin has so affected every part of man (mind, will, emotions) that he cannot and will not by nature turn from sin and believe in Christ to be saved. Rather, he will exercise his will in rebellion against God and the pursuit of sin.

### **Unconditional (Sovereign) Election**

Election refers to God's choosing of certain individuals unto salvation before the foundations of the world. This choice is unconditional in that it is not based on any merit in the sinner or any foreseen response from the sinner, but rests only in the sovereign wisdom and good pleasure of God. Repentance and faith are the result of election not the cause of election. Apart from the election of grace, none would be saved for none would seek after God.

### **Limited Atonement (Definite or Particular Redemption)**

The doctrine of limited atonement (perhaps better referred to as definite atonement or particular redemption) addresses the extent of Christ's atoning work on the cross. It answers the question, "For whom did Christ die?" More specifically, it grapples with the question of what Christ's death actually accomplished: did it merely make salvation possible for those who might believe or did His death actually accomplish and secure the salvation of His elect?

The Scriptures teach that Christ's death actually achieved the salvation for those whom He died. Christ's death was not general, but particular and definite in its aim. Christ died for the elect. He died for His bride, the Church. And His death actually accomplished all that was necessary to secure the everlasting salvation of His people. Christ's death on the cross cancels the debt of their sin, satisfies the holy wrath of God, and wins for His people all the benefits of salvation, including the gifts of repentance, faith and new life by the Spirit.

While Scripture references will be listed below to support this understanding of Christ's death on the cross, it should be noted that limited atonement is best understood by a careful study of the meaning of union with Christ by faith as well as the great terms used in the NT to describe Christ's work on the cross: redemption, reconciliation, propitiation, substitution, and satisfaction.

### **Irresistible Grace**

Because man is spiritually dead in sin, only a sovereign work of God can overcome man's rebellion against God and bring him to faith in Christ. Irresistible Grace refers to that special inward work of God the Holy Spirit whereby a sinner is made spiritually alive and given the gifts of repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. God's sovereign work of grace can and will overcome all resistance when He wills to draw His elect to saving faith in Jesus Christ.

### **Perseverance (Preservation) of the Saints**

All those so chosen by God before time, redeemed by Christ, effectually called by God to faith in Christ and given new life in the Spirit, will be finally saved. This is not simply a matter of eternal security, though it includes that. Scripture teaches that the saints will be kept in persevering faith and the obedience of faith by the power of God to the end. The fruits of conversion will be evident in their lives, though not without remaining sin.

<b>Total Depravity</b>	<b>Unconditional Election</b>	<b>Limited Atonement</b>	<b>Irresistible Grace</b>	<b>Preservation of the Saints</b>
Genesis 2:17	Exodus 33:19	Psalms 85:2	Psalms 3:8	Psalms 20:6
Genesis 6:5	Deuteronomy 7:6-7	Isaiah 53:8, 11-12	Psalms 65:4	Psalms 37:28
Job 15:14-16	Psalms 65:4	Matthew 1:21	Isaiah 55:1	Psalms 121:1-8
Psalms 14:2-3	Isaiah 43:20-21	Matthew 26:28	Ezekiel 36:26-27	Isaiah 46:3-4
Psalms 58:3	Matthew 22:14	John 3:16-18	John 1:12-13	Jeremiah 32:38-40
Proverbs 14:12	Mark 13:20	John 5:21, 24	John 3:3-8	John 5:24
Isaiah 64:6-7	John 1:12-13	John 6:25-40	John 5:21	John 6:37-47
Isaiah 65:12	John 6:39	John 10:11	John 6:37, 39	John 10:27-29
Jeremiah 13:23	John 6:44	John 10:14-16	John 6:44	John 17:20-21
Jeremiah 17:9	John 10:15-16	John 10:26-27	John 6:65	Romans 5:9
Matthew 7:17-18	John 10:26-30	John 12:37-40	John 10:16	Romans 8:28-30
Mark 7:21-23	John 17:2	John 14:21-24	John 11:43-44	Romans 11:29
John 3:6	Acts 13:48	John 17:2	Acts 13:48	1 Corinthians 1:6-8
John 3:19	Romans 8:29-30	John 17:9-10	Acts 16:14	1 Corinthians 15:10
John 8:34	Romans 9:11	Acts 10:40-41	Acts 18:27	Ephesians 1:3-14
Romans 1:18-32	Romans 9:15-16	Acts 13:48	Romans 8:30	Philippians 1:6
Romans 3:10-18	Romans 10:20	Acts 15:14	Romans 9:15-18	Philippians 2:11-12
Romans 3:23	Romans 11:5-7	Acts 20:28	Romans 11:5-6	1 Thessalonians 5:23-24
Romans 5:12	1 Corinthians 1:27-28	Romans 8:30	2 Corinthians 4:6	Hebrews 6:17-19
Romans 5:14-19	Ephesians 1:4-12	Romans 11:7	Ephesians 2:1-10	Hebrews 12:2
Romans 8:7-8	2 Timothy 1:9	Ephesians 1:4	Philippians 1:6, 29	Hebrews 13:20-21
1 Corinthians 1:18	2 Timothy 2:10	Ephesians 2:1-5	Philippians 2:13	1 Peter 1:3-5
1 Corinthians 2:14	Titus 1:1	Ephesians 2:8	2 Timothy 1:9-10	2 Peter 3:9
Ephesians 2:1-5	1 Peter 2:8	Titus 2:14	Titus 3:5	1 John 3:9
Colossians 2:13	Revelation 13:8	Hebrews 7:25-27	Hebrews 9:15	1 John 5:4-5
Titus 1:5	Revelation 17:8	Revelation 5:9	Colossians 1:13	1 John 5:11-13

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