



SOME OF THE THINGS WE WILL ADDRESS IN THIS SERIES

- False Grace
- “What is the grace of God?”
- “Where is the grace of God found and how does it save?”
- “Is the grace of God opposed to law?”
- “Does the grace of God lay aside law in situations where human need exists?”
- “Does the grace of God include law and works?”
- “Is the grace of God conditional or unconditional?”
- “Salvation by grace through faith?”
- Examples of salvation by grace

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND THE GRACE OF GOD?

- It is a central theme in the Bible
- No one can be saved without it
- It motivates labor for the Lord
- Much misinformation is published regarding it
 - “For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ” (Jude 1:4; cf. Rom. 6:1, 2; Titus 2:11, 12; 2 Pet. 2:1-2)

“FALSE GRACE” (CONCEPTS OF MEN)

NOTICE SOME PERVERSIONS OF THE GRACE OF GOD

- **Nicolaiism**, *seemingly* that grace covers licentious pleasures (Rev. 2:6, 14, 15; 2:20, 21)
- **Universalism**, grace saves everyone
- **Catholicism**, grace dispensed by clergy through sacramental rites
- **Calvinism**, grace unalterably extended to the (unconditionally) predestined elect

CALVINISM

- “God, from all eternity, did, by the most wise and holy counsel of his own will, freely and unchangeably ordain whatsoever comes to pass” (Presbyterian Confession of Faith, ch. 3, sec. 1)

CALVINISM

- "Question 12: What are the decrees of God?
 - Answer: God's decrees are the wise, free, and holy acts of the counsel of his will, whereby, from all eternity, he has, for his own glory, **unchangeably foreordained:** Whatsoever comes to pass in time, especially concerning angels and men" (Q. 12 and Ans. from Westminster Larger Catechism, www.reformed.org)

HAS GOD, FROM ALL ETERNITY FREELY AND UNCHANGEABLY ORDAIN WHATSOEVER COMES TO PASS?

- Did He ordain Adam and Eve to disobey (Gen. 2:16, 17)?
- Did He ordain Cain to kill his brother (Gen. 4:1ff)?
- Did He ordain David to commit adultery with Bathsheba (2 Sam. 12:1ff)?
- Did He ordain the Corinthians to be divided and follow men (1 Cor. 1:9-12)?
- Did He ordain some who were bought by the Lord to deny Him (2 Pet. 2:1)?

ARE THINGS "UNCHANGABLE" OR CAN THINGS BE ALTERED (1 SAM. 223:11-13)?

- 11 "will the men of Keilah surrender me into his hand? will Saul come down just as your servant has heard? O LORD God of Israel, I pray, tell your servant." and the LORD said, "he will come down."
- 12 then David said, "will the men of Keilah surrender me and my men into the hand of Saul?" and the LORD said, "they will surrender you."
- 13 then David and his men, about six hundred, arose and departed from Keilah, and they went wherever they could go. when it was told Saul that David had escaped from Keilah, he gave up the pursuit (NAS95)

CALVINISM

- “Question 13: What has God especially decreed concerning angels and men?
 - Answer: God, by an eternal and immutable decree, out of his mere love, for the praise of his glorious grace, to be manifested in due time, has elected some angels to glory; and in Christ has chosen some men to eternal life... and also, according to his sovereign power, and the unsearchable counsel of his own will...has passed by and foreordained the rest to dishonor and wrath...” (Q. 13 and Ans. from Westminster Larger Catechism, www.reformed.org)

CALVINISM

- Answer to Question 25:
 - “The sinfulness of that estate whereinto man fell, consists in the guilt of Adam’s first sin, the want of that righteousness wherein he was created, and the corruption of his nature, whereby he is utterly indisposed, disabled, and made opposite unto all that is spiritually good, and wholly inclined to all evil, and that continually; which is commonly called original sin, and from which do proceed all actual transgressions” (ibid., emp. mine)

CALVINISM

- Answer to Question 30:
 - “God does not leave all men to perish in the estate of sin and misery...but of his mere love and mercy delivers his elect out of it, and brings them into an estate of salvation by the second covenant, commonly called the covenant of grace.” (ibid., emp. mine)

CALVINISM

- Answer to Question 32:
 - *The grace of God is manifested in the second covenant, in that he freely provides and offers to sinners a Mediator, and life and salvation by him; and requiring faith as the condition to interest them in him, **promises and gives his Holy Spirit to all his elect, to work in them that faith**, with all other saving graces; **and to enable them unto all holy obedience**, as the evidence of the truth of their faith and thankfulness to God, and as the way which he has appointed them to salvation" (ibid., emp. mine)

SO...

1. God requires faith as a condition to be saved
 2. God requires obedience to evidence the truth of their faith
 - a. **Yet** God must give the Holy Spirit to them in order for them to have faith???
 - b. **And** God must give them the Spirit in order for them to obey and prove their faith???
- God requires faith and obedience...but then only God can enable faith and obedience???
 - Then whose fault is it when a man doesn't get it???



1 Timothy 1:18-20

- If God alone gives and enables faith, who is responsible for a shipwrecked faith?
- Why deliver Alexander and Hymenaeus to Satan if they were always in Satan?

¹⁸ This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare,

¹⁹ having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck,

²⁰ of whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.

CALVINISM

- Answer to Question 59:
 - “Redemption is certainly applied, and effectually communicated, to all those for whom Christ has purchased it; who are in time by the Holy Ghost enabled to believe in Christ according to the gospel” (ibid., emp. mine)

CALVINISM

Did the Lord unconditionally foreordain this mistake on their website? 

- Answer to Question 67:
- “Answer: Effectual calling is the work of God’s almighty power and grace, whereby (out of his free and special love to his elect, and from nothing in them moving him thereunto) he does, in his accepted time, invite and draw them to Jesus Christ, by his Word and Spirit; savingly enlightening their minds, renewing and powerfully determining their wills, so as they (although in themselves dead in sin) are hereby made willing and able freely to Answer [sic, sjw] his call, and to accept and embrace the grace offered and conveyed therein” (ibid., emp. mine, website as of 10/03/13)

CALVINISM

- Answer to Question 75:
 - “Sanctification is a work of God’s grace, whereby they whom God has, before the foundation of the world, chosen to be holy, are in time, through the powerful operation of his Spirit applying the death and resurrection of Christ unto them, renewed in their whole man after the image of God; having the seeds of repentance unto life, and all other saving graces, put into their hearts, and those graces so stirred up, increased, and strengthened, as that they more and more die unto sin, and rise unto newness of life” (ibid., emp. mine)

CALVINISM: GOD UNCONDITIONALLY PREDETERMINES THE WINNERS AND LOSERS!

GOD (before creation)
Holy Spirit and seeds of repentance

CALVINISM: GOD UNCONDITIONALLY PREDETERMINES THE WINNERS AND LOSERS!

GOD (before creation)
Holy Spirit and seeds of repentance Enabled to believe—SAVED!
X - Everyone else foreordained to dishonor and wrath

CALVINISM: GOD UNCONDITIONALLY PREDETERMINES THE WINNERS AND LOSERS!

GOD

"For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time" (1 Tim. 2:5, 6)

"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance" (2 Pet. 3:9)

PURE CHRISTIANITY: GOD PREDETERMINES THE CONDITIONS FOR MAN TO MEET TO BE SAVED

GOD
(before creation)

God's Choice

Ephesians 1:3, 4

Conceived a place where man could be saved!

IN CHRIST
(the church)

PURE CHRISTIANITY: GOD PREDETERMINES THE CONDITIONS FOR MAN TO MEET TO BE SAVED

GOD
(before creation)

“having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved”
(Eph. 1:5, 6)

Conceived a plan for man to be adopted to be saved!

IN CHRIST
(the church)

PURE CHRISTIANITY: GOD PREDETERMINES THE CONDITIONS FOR MAN TO MEET TO BE SAVED

GOD
(before creation)

“In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise”
(Eph. 1:13, KJV)

Conceived a plan for man to be adopted to be saved!

IN CHRIST
(the church)

After Believed
Then Sealed with Holy Spirit

NOT given the Spirit to Believe

"I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance" (Lk. 5:32)

"that at that time you were **without Christ**...having **no hope** and **without God** in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought **near** by the blood of Christ" (Eph. 2:12, 13)

ADOPTION: hear, believe, repent, confess, be baptized!

Romans 8:14
Galatians 3:26-28

"that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory" (1 Thess. 2:12)

"to which He **called you by our gospel**, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Thess. 2:14)

ADOPTION: hear, believe, repent, confess, be baptized!

Romans 8:14
Galatians 3:26-28

"that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory" (1 Thess. 2:12)

"For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it...as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe" (1 Thess. 2:13)

ADOPTION: hear, believe, repent, confess, be baptized!

Romans 8:14
Galatians 3:26-28

"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace" (Eph. 1:7)

"Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38)

ADOPTION: hear, believe, repent, confess, **be baptized!**

Romans 8:14
Galatians 3:26-28

GRACE
IN CHRIST
(the church)

A diagram on a black background. On the left, three sad white faces with straight lines for mouths are arranged in a triangle. A large white arrow points from these faces to a blue circle on the right. Inside the blue circle, there are three happy white faces with curved lines for mouths. The text 'GRACE IN CHRIST (the church)' is written in white and yellow inside the circle. A white box with a black border is positioned between the sad and happy faces, containing the text 'ADOPTION: hear, believe, repent, confess, be baptized!'. Below this box, the Bible verses 'Romans 8:14' and 'Galatians 3:26-28' are listed.
