

The Doctrines of Grace #8

Study Handout – Grace Bible Chapel

Calvinism – Total Depravity

July 28th, 2024

Introduction:

What is Calvinism? –

The short version used to remember the tenants of Calvinism

- Total Depravity
- Unconditional Election
- Limited Atonement
- Irresistible Grace
- Perseverance of the Saints



What is Arminianism?

A Brief History -

A Comparison of Man's Ability

Arminianism	Calvinism
<p>Free-Will or Human Ability</p> <p>Although human nature was seriously affected by the fall, man has not been left in a state of total spiritual helplessness. Every sinner has the ability to repent and believe. God 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. Man's will is not enslaved to his sinful nature. Every 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 invaded 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.</p>	<p>Total Inability or Total Depravity</p> <p>Because of the fall, man is unable of himself to savingly believe the gospel. As a sinner he is dead, blind, and deaf to the things of God. His heart is deceitful and desperately corrupt. His nature is that of a child of wrath, or in opposition to God. His will is not free, it is in bondage to his corrupted nature. Therefore, man is unable of himself and has no desire to choose good over evil in the spiritual realm ruled of God. Consequently, it takes more than the words of truth to bring a sinner to Christ - it takes a regenerative work of God in the sinner making him receptive to truth, and giving life that brings about a new nature. Faith is not something man initiates for salvation but is itself God's gift as a result of God's work of salvation in the sinner's heart - it is God's gift to the sinner, not the sinner's gift to God.</p>

