

The Doctrines of Grace #12

Study Handout – Grace Bible Chapel

Calvinism – Irresistible Grace

September 22nd, 2024

Introduction:

Irresistible Grace (Point #4)

A Comparison of Arminianism with Calvinism – Point Four

Arminianism	Calvinism
<p>The Holy Spirit Can Be Effectually Resisted The Spirit calls inwardly all those who are called outwardly by the gospel invitation; He does all that He can to bring every sinner to salvation. But because man is free, he can successfully resist the Spirit's call. The Spirit cannot regenerate the sinner until he believes; faith (which is man's contribution) proceeds and makes possible the new birth. Man's free will limits the Spirit's application of Christ's saving work. The Holy Spirit can only draw to Christ those who allow Him to have His way with them. Until the sinner responds, the Spirit cannot give life. God's grace, therefore, is not invincible; it can and often has been, resisted and thwarted by man.</p>	<p>The Efficacious Call of the Spirit or Irresistible Grace In addition to the outward general call to salvation which is made to everyone who hears the gospel, the Holy Spirit extends to the elect a special inward call that inevitably brings them to salvation. The internal call is made to the elect always resulting in conversion. The Spirit effectually draws sinners to Christ through God's Word. The Spirit graciously causes the elect sinner to cooperate, to believe, to repent, to come freely and willingly to Christ. God's grace, therefore, is invincible; it never fails to result in the salvation of those to whom it is extended.</p>

The Calvinist view of God's irresistible or effectual calling:

Definition: those who obtain salvation do so, not by their own free will, but because of the sovereign grace of God. That is, men yield to grace, not because of their person or mind is more prone than other men. Rather, God powerfully intervenes. Therefore, God's Spirit working in regeneration must precede the exercise of faith.

Scripture on "effectual calling:" John 10:26-27; John 6:37; Eph. 1:3-14; Eph. 2:1-10; Col. 1:13-23; 2:8-13; 1 Pet. 1:1-5; 2 Tim. 1:8-14; Is. 55:8-11; 1 Pet. 1:23; James 1:18; Rom. 10:17; 1 Cor. 2:12-14; 1 John 2:21.

General thoughts:

Arguments for Irresistible Grace

Based on man's revealed condition:

Based on God's revealed purpose:

Based on the necessity for God to act:

Based on the focus of the prayers of God's people:

Arminian arguments in opposition to this doctrine:

a. God has given free will to men to choose to believe God without any overpowering intervention from God.

b. God does not force Himself on anyone.

c. Effectual calling excludes human responsibility.

d. Effectual calling makes a mockery of passages that call on men to believe and choose.

e. Passages that address men rejecting the Holy Spirit.

f. It is the opposite of grace to force the gift of 'grace' upon anyone.
