

1998 Carson Summer Lecture Series
An Introduction to the Reformed Faith (#8)
Grace Conceived: Unconditional Election
August 3, 1998

The Bible brings the doctrine of Total Depravity to us with such clarity and force, that we realize unless God does something we are lost. Our total depravity and inability sets before us the need of grace, and it is the doctrine of election which shows us the conception of that grace.

Most people hate the doctrine of election because it offends them and their own sense of freedom.

-Ariel-

Almost every objection against election emerges from a lack of understanding of depravity.

I. The Doctrine of Election Defined
Steele and Thomas, 30
Boettner, 26

II. The Major Objections

- A. It violates my free-will
 - misunderstanding depravity
 - What if God did leave it up to your free will (which is bound to your sinful, fallen nature)?
- B. It is not fair
 - God operates in terms of justice or mercy, but never injustice.
 - What if He were to do what was "fair"? We would all receive justice.
 - Orphanage-Folsom Prison
- C. It is based on foreknowledge not sovereign grace
 - Rom. 8:29; 1 Pet. 1:1-2
 - What does foreknowledge mean?
 - Talbot/Crampton, 25

III. The Weight of Biblical Truth

- A. The meaning of the word "choose," "elect"
 - if God's choice was based on your choice, then the Bible should talk about us electing and choosing. When it did talk of God's choice based on your choice, it should talk of God's ratification, not election.
 - "Didn't I choose?" Yes, He just worked on your chooser first!
And your chooser chose because you were chosen!
- B. John 6:38-40; 15:16 (cf. 10:26; 12:37-40; 17:6, 9, 20)

C. Acts 13:48 (cf. 16:14)

D. Eph. 1:3-6, 11 (Col. 3:12; 1 Thess. 1:4-5; 2 Thess. 2:13; 2 Tim. 1:9)

E. Rom. 9:6-24 (11:5-6)

IV. The Issue at Stake

A. Is it all of grace or not? (If conditional, it destroys grace) Rom. 11:5-6
Who will get to boast? 1 Cor. 1:26-31; Eph. 2:9

Tis not that I did choose Thee, for Lord that could not be;
This heart would still refuse Thee, Hadst Thou not chosen me.
Thou from the sin that stained me, Hast cleansed and set me free;
Of old thou hast ordained me, That I should live for Thee.

Sovereign Grace, I Will Proclaim It!

Wretched, lost, condemned and dying,
Guilty, I deserved God's wrath:
Long I fought against my Master,
Hell-bent, I was courting death:
But the blood of Christ had bought me,
He refused to let me die:
This poor sinner, loved by Jesus,
Must be conquered, by and by.

Sovereign grace, I will proclaim it,
Irresistible and free!
Grace that chose me and redeemed me-
God by grace alone saved me!
Sinner, now you've heard my story,
Now I bid you, trust my God:
Christ my all-sufficient Savior,
Saves poor sinners by His blood.