

Eternal Election

The Belgic Confession, Article 16

1. The Scripture: 1 Peter 1:1-2

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

2. The Doctrine

- a. The Belgic Confession wisely (and biblically) explains election in the context of the story of creation and fall.

- b. God is merciful “since He delivers and preserves from this perdition all whom He in His eternal and unchangeable counsel of mere goodness has elected in Christ Jesus our Lord, without any respect to their works.”

- c. God is just “in leaving others in the fall and perdition wherein they have involved themselves.”

3. The Use

- a. Defend it

- b. Love it: The sovereign grace of God is glorious!

- c. Live it: The doctrine of election means that you are living as part of a story that has God-given and God-guaranteed meaning, direction, and purpose.