

Calvin's Terrible Tulip: Limited Atonement

Zeke Flores

Intro: Calvinism synopsis

- A. We've mentioned how one petal of Calvin's false flower necessarily leads to another.
 - 1. If believe in Original Sin, then must believe in Unconditional Election, then must believe in the Limited Atonement of Christ.
 - 2. *"God provided atonement and salvation through the blood of Christ only for the elect."*
- B. Embraced by "hardcore" Calvinists
 - 1. "Did Christ offer up Himself a sacrifice for the whole human race, for every individual without distinction or exception; or did His death have special reference to the elect? In other words, was the sacrifice of Christ merely intended to make the salvation of all men possible, or was it intended to render certain the salvation of those who had been given to Him by the Father? Arminians hold that Christ died for all men alike, while Calvinists hold that in the intention and secret plan of God Christ died for the elect only... (Lorraine Boettner, *The Reformed Doctrine of Predestination*)
 - 2. ". . . Wherefore they who are elected being fallen in Adam, are redeemed in Christ, are effectually called unto faith in Christ by His Spirit working in due season; are justified, adopted, sanctified, and kept by His power through faith unto salvation. Neither are any other redeemed by Christ, effectually called, justified, adopted, sanctified, and saved, but the elect only." (Westminster Confession)
 - 3. "Christ's redeeming work was intended to save the elect only and actually secured salvation for them. His death was a substitutionary sacrifice of the penalty of sin in the place of certain specified sinners. In addition to putting away the sins of His people, Christ's redemption secured everything necessary for their salvation, including faith which unites them to Him. The gift of faith is infallibly applied by the Spirit to all for whom Christ died, therefore guaranteeing their salvation." (David Steele and Curtis Thomas, *5 Points of Calvinism Defined, Defended, Documented*)
 - 4. "We believe that God has an elect whom He has chosen unto eternal salvation. We believe that the atonement of Christ was for that chosen number and no one else." (Eddie K. Garrett, *Primitive Baptist*)

I. Biblical Proof?

- A. Calvinists say so, yet again remember, prove ONE point inconsistent with Biblical truth and the doctrine falls.
- B. **Matt 1:21**
 - 1. Every word true; question is *"Who are His people?"*
 - 2. Those who relate to and identify with Him.
 - a. **Matt 12:46-50; Gal 3:26-29; 22**
 - b. This also refutes the "unconditional election" that sets up the "limited atonement."
- C. **John 10:14-15**
 - 1. Calvin says the elect are His sheep. True, but...
 - a. Sheep must respond - **vs 27-28**
 - 2. Besides, **Vs 16** - Jesus has "other sheep" Calvin denies that sheep can change from one fold to another or from goats to sheep (Matt 25:31-46).
 - a. People who changed: **1 Cor 6:9-11; 1 Tim 1:13-14**
 - 3. We could look at more but Calvin's "proof texts" are all like this: Passage pulled out of context and twisted to support his opinion.

II. Who Did Jesus Die For?

- A. Whoever - **John 3:16**
- B. All everywhere - **Acts 17:30; Titus 2:11; Matt 11:28**
- C. Everyone - **Heb 2:9** Anyone - **1 John 2:1-2**
- D. All the ungodly - **Rom 5:6**
- E. He wishes NO ONE to be lost - **1 Tim 2:4; 1 Pet 3:18, 2 Pet 3:9**
- F. It's contextually clear that in all these passages and more, Jesus' atoning sacrifice was made on behalf of ALL.

III. The Consequences of a Limited Atonement

- A. It restricts God's love and grace
 - 1. **John 3:16** (the world); **2 Cor 5:14-15**; **Titus 3:4-5**
- B. It makes a mockery of the Great Commission
 - 1. **Matt 28:18-20**; **2 Cor 5:17-20**
 - 2. Calvin rationalized that God would not waste Christ's sacrifice on those whom were "unelected" but don't realize the waste by preachers, Calvinist or otherwise, who preach to people whom God will supposedly save whether they hear or not.
- C. It mocks the effectiveness of Christ's sacrifice.
 - 1. Calvin says that Jesus could not have died in vain or that His death would not be of no effect since it was designed for the elect only. BUT:
 - 2. It IS in vain if you don't hold fast - **1 Cor 15:2**
 - 3. It IS in vain if your affections are pulled in the wrong direction - **2 Cor 6:1; 12-ff**
 - 4. It IS in vain if you continue to sin - **Heb 6:4-6; 10:26**

Conc: *Again & again we see the inconsistency of Calvinism.*

- A. Concerning Christ's atonement, it is backwards:
 - 1. *It claims that it is the election that redeems;*
Bible says it is by the redemption that we are elected!
- B. You and ALL people have a place in God's plan but it's up to you to choose Him!
- C. **INV**