

Calvinism's Terrible Tulip

Zeke Flores

Intro: *Who is Calvin & what is Calvinism?*

- A. John Calvin - 1509-1564
 - 1. Tho born French, moved to Geneva Switz. in 20's
 - 2. Was going to be lawyer, underwent religious change
- B. Lived during time of Martin Luther
 - 1. Great reformations being attempted in Catholicism;
 - 2. Dissatisfied with Catholicism, Calvin joined reformers
 - 3. These "reformers" were dubbed "Protestants"
- C. In 1536 published "Institutes of the Christian Religion"
 - 1. Revised and expanded many times until 1559
 - 2. Outlined his theological views, wide acclaim.
 - 3. Many of his views did not originate with him.
 - a. Some formulated from teaching by Augustine, 5th century Catholic philosopher.
 - 4. Calvinism, tho not a religion in itself, serves as basis for most Protestant denoms. in part or in whole
 - a. Though not all denoms hold to all 5 points, the teaching pervades religion worldwide.
- D. **WHAT IS IT?**
 - 1. Synopsis of Calvin's theology
 - a. God is ultimate; therefore His will is ultimate and final [Sovereignty]. According to His sovereign will He foreordained all things. He foreordained sin itself. He did this for His own glory. To further enhance His own glory, He predetermined that of sinners, He would save some (the elect) and condemn others. He did this according to His own will so that it has nothing to do with anything men do [**Unconditional Election**]. For His elect, God has provided atonement and salvation through the blood of His Son Jesus Christ [**Limited Atonement**]. The problem is that through Adam's sin, his nature was corrupted, and this nature has been passed down to his descendants [**Total Hereditary Depravity**]. Having this corrupt nature, men cannot come to the knowledge of God by themselves. Even the elect cannot respond to God, cannot have faith, until the Holy Spirit opens their hearts to believe and understand. The grace of God, exerted in behalf of His elect, and according to His sovereign will, cannot be thwarted [**Irresistible Grace**]. The elect will be saved. His grace will sustain the elect and will not be removed so that they cannot be lost. Their salvation is sure [**Perseverance of the Saints**].
 - 2. Most commonly described in 5 point acronym **TULIP**
 - T** - Total Hereditary Depravity
 - U** - Unconditional Election
 - L** - Limited Atonement
 - I** - Irresistible Grace
 - P** - Perseverance of the Saints
- E. The Bible refutes them all.

I. **T - Total Hereditary Depravity - *All men are born in sin as result of Adam's sin.***

- A. Sometimes called "The Doctrine of Original Sin"
 - 1. Babies born lost in sin
 - 2. The cause of infant baptism

B. Taught by most denominations:

1. **Roman Catholics** – Council of Trent 1545-1563: "Adam's first sin has been transmitted to all his descendants".
 - a. Questions of Catholics Answered by Winfrid Herbst: "Yes, every child born into this world has the guilt of original sin upon his soul. Original sin is the sin that we inherit from our first parents. Original sin excludes us from heaven unless forgiven. It is forgiven only by baptism, hence when an unbaptized baby dies, it can not enter the kingdom of God."
2. **Lutheran** - Augsburg confession Article 2: "It is also taught among us that since the fall of Adam all men who are born according to the course of nature are conceived and born in sin. That is, all men are full of evil lust and inclination from their mother's womb and are unable by nature to have true fear of God and true faith in God. Moreover, this inborn sickness and hereditary sin is truly sin and condemns to the eternal wrath of God all whose who are not born again through baptism and the Holy Spirit."
3. **Methodist** – "Methodist Discipline: (Since) "infants are guilty of original sin, then they are proper subjects of baptism, seeing in the ordinary way, they cannot be saved unless this be washed away by baptism. It has already been proved that this original sin cleaves to every child of man, and hereby they are children of wrath and liable to eternal damnation."
4. **Presbyterian** - "By this sin, they (Adam and Eve) fell from their original righteousness and communion with God, and so became dead in sin, and wholly defiled in all the faculties and parts of soul and body. They being the root of all mankind, the guilt of this sin was imputed, and the same death in sin and corrupted nature conveyed to all their posterity, descending from them by ordinary generation. From this original corruption, whereby we are utterly indisposed, disabled, and made opposite to all good, and wholly inclined to all evil, do proceed all actual transgressions." (Presbyterian Confession of Faith, pp 30-31)

II. Supposed Proof Texts

A. We cannot look at all of them, but remember, we must only Biblically refute ONE to prove the doctrine inconsistent with truth.

B. **Rom 5:12**

1. Calvinists say this text teaches that Adam's sin opened the door to inherited guilt throughout all succeeding generations.
2. Notice "*because all sinned*" Death spread through *sin*, not Adam.
 - a. **ILL**: A man brings poison into a room & drinks it. When do you die? When you drink the poison, not by inheriting the consequences of the other poison drinker.
3. "all sinned" speaks of action - **Rom 3:23; 3:10-18**
 - a. All texts speak of a willful act/action whereby sin is accomplished.
(1) "*Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.*" 1 John 3:4

C. **Psalm 51:5** (A favorite of Calvinists)

1. Who was in sin at David's birth? David or his mom?
 - a. Being brought forth in a garden, conceived in a pumpkin patch doesn't make you a pumpkin!
2. The passage obviously refers to the sin of David's mother or the sin that abounded in her time.
 - a. Much like Isaiah felt - **Isaiah 6:5**
3. Consider: If all children born of earthly mothers are sinful, then so was Jesus!
 - a. Catholics evade this by declaring Mary was born by "immaculate conception" - she was sinless at birth.

III. What the Bible teaches:

A. Jesus extolled the virtues of children, not their sinfulness.

1. **Matt 18:1-3; 19:14**
2. Why would He tell us to become more like little sinners?
 - a. *“You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, until unrighteousness was found in you.”* Ezek 28:15
3. It is each person whose sin condemns them.
 - a. *“Behold, I have found only this, that God made men upright, but they have sought out many devices.”* Ecc 7:29
- B. We are each responsible for our own sin.
 1. When examined closely, Ezekiel 18 refutes *every point* of Calvinism. Notice this:
 2. **Ezek 18:4; 14-20**
- C. For man to sin, he must 1st be tempted, then *do* the act!
 1. **James 1:12-15**
 2. Sin is NOT an abstract quality man is born with IT IS AN ACTION that when done, separates him from God.
 - a. *“But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He does not hear.”* Isa 59:2
- D. Always, the choice is man’s
 1. **Rom 6:12-18**

Conc: *Sin is committed, not inherited.*

- A. Jesus died as a sacrifice for your sin. Baptism washes away sin when preceded by faith, repentance, and confession of faith.
- B. Remove your sin! INV