

1.

The Five Solas

Prior to the Reformation—

Rome: Scripture and Tradition (Church, Councils, & Popes)

- Scripture Closed, Inspired, & Inerrant
- Sufficiency of Scripture
- Issue was Never Scripture, Grace, Faith, Christ, or Glory! The issue is "Alone".

At the Reformation—

I. Sola Scriptura: Scripture Alone

- Sole Authority

Jesus: "All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition," Mark 7:9

You must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.
2 Timothy 3:14-17

II. Sola Gratia: Grace Alone

- God's Choosing, Doing, & Work.
- Undeserved, Unmerited, & Unacceptable
- Regeneration Precedes Faith.

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. Ephesians 2:8-9

III. Sola Fide: Faith Alone

Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law. Romans 3:28

IV. Solus Christus: Christ Alone

- Jesus alone—in no other

Jesus: "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6

- Not Jesus Plus _____

Example: Become Jewish First/Circumcision (Galatians)

V. Soli Deo Gloria: The Glory of God Alone

Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31

- Vocation

Since the Reformation—

Charismatics: Scripture & Experience

- New Revelation

"If private revelations agree with Scripture, they are unnecessary and if they disagree they are false." —John Owen

Liberals: Very Little Scripture

- Errant & Insufficient
- Sinful/Human in Origin
- Paul: Labeled Misogynistic, Homophobic, & Oppressive
- Relativism

Pragmatics: Helpful/Selective Scriptures

- Insufficiency
- Unattractive

2.

Reformed Theology T.U.L.I.P.

- John Calvin (1509-1564)
- Jacob Arminius (1560-1609)
- Five Points of Arminianism
- Response: Five Points of Calvinism

"T"otal Depravity

The idea is that we are not sinners because we sin, but that we sin because we are sinners...The will, according to the New Testament, is now in bondage. We are enslaved to the evil impulses and desires of our hearts. —R.C. Sproul

I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me. Psalm 51:5

Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. Genesis 6:5

Arminian View: Man's will is fully free. There exists a vestige/island of spiritual life that can choose to accept or reject God and the Gospel. This view makes man sovereign and God not.

Reformed View: Man is not Sick and in Need of Healing.
He is Dead and in Need of Resurrection.

And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. Ephesians 2:1-3

"There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God"...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Romans 3:10-11 & 23

For the wages of sin is death... Romans 6:23

- Proof of Total Depravity: All Die

Reformed View: On his Own, Man is Fully *Incapable* of Seeing, Hearing, or Responding to the Gospel.

But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. 1 Corinthians 2:14

Jesus: "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." John 3:3

Reformed View: Regeneration Precedes Faith.

What Total Depravity Does Not Mean

"Absolute" Depravity = Man expresses as much evil as possible at all times. Man is fully incapable of any moral/good acts.

- Kind, Generous, Sacrificial, & Champion Noble Causes
- However, None of Those Bear any Influence in Salvation.

3.

Reformed Theology T.U.L.I.P.

“U”ncoditional Election

Key Word: Sovereign

Key Questions:

- Is God Sovereign in all Things?

All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand or say to Him, “What have You done?” Daniel 4:35

- Including Salvation?

Key Answer: Yes

Key Truth:

Both Arminians and Calvinist believe in election and predestination. Both sides believe God must call a person into salvation.

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. Romans 8:28-30

Key Difference:

Arminians believe God looks into the future, and calls those who will respond positively.

Calvinists believe God predetermines who He will call and save based solely on His sovereign decision.

Key Text: Romans 9

For the children [Jacob and Esau] not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls), ...As it is written, “Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated.” What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? Certainly not! For He says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion.” So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy...Therefore He has mercy on whom He wills, and whom He wills He hardens.

Romans 9:11-18

[Our Lord] who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began. 2 Timothy 1:9

He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption [election] as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will [unconditional]. Ephesians 1:4-5

- Common Reaction: That's Not Fair

Key Response: One person gets justice. Another gets mercy. No one gets Injustice.

4.

Reformed Theology T.U.L.I.P.

"L"imited Atonement

I. For Whom Did Christ Die?

Everyone vs. Limited

- World/Culture: Everyone
- Arminians: Everyone
- Calvinist: The Elect
- Is Everybody Going to Heaven? No = Universalism

Jesus: "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it."

Matthew 7:13-14

Agreement: Both Sides Believe the Atonement to be Limited.

II. The Division: By Whom is it Limited?

Man vs. God

[If Only Those God Chose can Come to Salvation thru Christ, and He Must Grant Them Life and Faith thru Grace...then Atonement, by its Very Nature, is Limited by God.]

Sufficient vs. Efficient

III: Is Christ's Death on the Cross Sufficient to Pay for Every Person's Sin Throughout All Time? Yes

Is the Gospel Offered to Everyone? Yes

Would anyone, Putting their Faith in Christ, be Saved? Yes

- When was the Atonement Decision Made?
 - At Adam's fall? (A Reaction = Not Sovereign)
 - Before time began (An Initiative = Sovereign Plan)

IV. Was There a Possibility No One Would Accept Christ?

Potential Atonement vs. Actual Atonement
Everyone Potentially but, No One Actually

Jesus: "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep." John 10:11

"But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep..."
John 10:26

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her. Ephesians 5:25

"And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." Matthew 1:21

V. The John 3:16 Battle: "world"

Everyone vs. Select Representative Group

- Is Everyone Saved? No
- Is He Referring to the Planet Earth? No

Context: To Whom is Jesus speaking? Nicodemus—a Pharisee

What point was Jesus making? Salvation is Not Exclusive to Israel

They glorified God, saying, "Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life." Acts 11:18

"For You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood, out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation."
Revelation 5:9

5.

Reformed Theology
T.U.L.I.P.
"I"rresistible Grace

Jesus: "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him." John 6:44

"Can" vs. "May"
Ability vs. Permission

Jesus: "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life...Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father." John 6:63-65

- Arminian: Resistible Grace
- Calvinist/Reformed: Irresistible Grace
- Better: Effectual Call

Jesus: "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out." John 6:37

Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed. Acts 13:48

- No One is Forced by God Kicking and Screaming Against Their Will.
- Instead: They are Given a New Will/New Desire/New Father = Drawn to the Savior

- No "Righteous Seekers" are Left Out.

"There is none righteous, no, not one; there is none who understands; there is none who seeks after God, They have all turned aside; they have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one." Romans 3:10-12

[Also in Psalm 14, Psalm 51, & Ecclesiastes 7]

- No "Resistant Sinners" are Forced In.
- Each Person will Choose or Reject by Their Nature

Jesus: "You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do." John 8:44

Therefore He has mercy on whom He wills, and whom He wills He hardens. You will say to me then, "Why does He still find fault? For who has resisted His will?" Romans 9:18-19

- Rhetorical Negative (lost) & Positive (elect): No One
- Effectual Call: Irresistible
- Common Grace Fully Resistible
- Common Grace = Conscience, Family, Government, Creation, & Universal Blessings

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Romans 1:18-21

Sad Reality: The Greater the Grace Shown and the More Obvious the Truth Heard, each Rejection Hardens, Darkens, and Callouses the heart.

6.

Reformed Theology

T.U.L.I.P.

"P"erseverance of the Saints

- Historic: Perseverance of the Saints
- Better: Preservation of the Saints
- Or: Preservation by the Spirit

For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38-39

Arminian Position: A Person may Fall from Grace and Lose their Salvation.

- Many 4-Point Arminians

Questions & Truths

- Q: Which Sins and How Much Sin Causes Someone to Lose Their Salvation?
- T: Jesus only Raised the Bar, Never Lowered it...Sin is a Heart Issue, not an Action Issue.
- Q: What Chapter and Verse are you Using for your Doctrine?
- T: Then, Outside of a Repentance, Immediately Preceding Death, No One has any Assurance of Salvation in Arminianism.

Calvinist Doctrine: Once saved. Always saved.

- God did/does all the Work in Salvation. God does all the Work in Maintaining it.

The Secure Saint

1. God the Father Holds

Jesus: "I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. I and My Father are one." John 10:28-30

2. God the Son Intercedes

It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. Romans 8:34

But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. Hebrews 7:24-25

3. God the Holy Spirit Seals

Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. 2 Corinthians 1:21-22

In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory. Ephesians 1:13-14