



Reformed Theology—Part 3
Unconditional Election: Various Scriptures
From Sermon 11.8.20

Read *Romans 9:11-18*

Review from Sunday's sermon: As the Reformers studied the Scriptures, they recaptured the beautiful doctrine of Unconditional Election. Shortly thereafter, the Arminians would divide from Calvinists and teach that God's election was conditional and, in the end, based on the future response of the one called. It showed, again, that the Reformed Doctrines stand up one another. If you accept the biblical position of Total Depravity, then Unconditional Election follows naturally. To be clear, the doctrine is not stating there are no conditions at the time of conversion, but instead address the reason God chooses.

1. What grand characteristic of God is the starting point for this discussion/doctrine? The Sovereignty of God. See *Daniel 4:35 & Isaiah 40:13-14*

2. What do we mean in proclaiming God sovereign? Various answers. He is not bound, controlled, or altered by human action in any way. All things work in accordance with His will.

2a. Is God sovereign, then, in all things, even man's salvation? Yes. If not, we must surrender some of God's sovereignty to man. Since man is totally dead in sin, he can only respond by God's granting life and faith anyway.

3. We learned that election is unconditional, but reiterated that conversion is conditional. What are the necessary conditions at the time of anyone's conversion?

- God's pre-choosing/predestining before time began. See *Ephesians 1:4-5*
- God's paying our sin debt for us. See *Romans 5:6*
- God's spiritual resurrecting & granting of faith. *Ephesians 2:1-5 & 8-9*
- The individual's hearing of the Gospel (The calling). See *Romans 10:17*
- The individual's response, repentance, and confession. See *Romans 10:9-10*

4. What's the common reaction to Unconditional Election? That's Not Fair.

4a. What is the Reformed response? 1. We all define "fair" by human standards that are marred by sin. 2. The last thing you want is what's "fair" in God's eyes = deserve death and hell. 3. One person gets mercy. Another person gets justice. But, no one gets injustice.

Read more of *Romans 9*. See *Romans 9:14 & 19-23*

5. How does/should unconditional election affect your worship? Various personal answers

6. The "evangelical" church today: a mixed of all things that are liked (picking and choosing those things which are attractive, popular, & practical), logical (things that make sense and remove all mystery), and light (nothing heavy, sobering, or deep).

6a. Comment on "Most sitting in church today have no idea what their church believes concerning these vital doctrines. A Church, today, is not chosen based on doctrine, but on style, programs, ascetics, & entertainment."