



Reformed Theology—Part 5
Irresistible Grace: Various Scriptures
From Sermon 11.22.20

Read *John 6:37 & Acts 13:48*

Review From Sunday's Sermon: John chapter 6 is another pivotal and central evidence for Reformed doctrine. It shows again: this is not new. We didn't make it up. It's not something John Calvin invented. Saint Augustine didn't introduce it. And, neither did Paul. These are the Words of Jesus Himself. Like every other point in Calvinism, this one has been distorted and misunderstood. However, it fits perfectly when get an accurate view of man and an accurate doctrine of sovereign God.

1. What is the difference between Saving Grace and Common Grace? Saving grace is that unmerited revealing of God that grants life through faith. It is bestowed on the elect only. Common grace is a benevolent mercy/provision God bestows on all people everywhere. They would include the God-ordained restraints on sin, not striking sinners down on the spot, Creation, the rain on earth to produce crops/food, beauty, life, joy, relationships, and so on. [also include the hearing of the Gospel and existence of the true Church]

2. What is the Arminian position concerning Saving grace? It is fully and finally resistible.

2a. What is Calvinist/Reformed Doctrine: Because God does all the work in resurrecting the dead human spirit of the elect and He grants them a new truth-seeing nature, they will be irresistibly drawn to the Savior.

2b. Do we (Calvinists) believe that Common Grace is resistible? Absolutely. It is all the time. Not giving God thanks. Removing Him from the culture. Mislabeling Him and the Church. Taking credit for life's blessings. All Sin is really a rejection of God's grace. Even born again Christians can/do reject God's common graces at times.

2c. What happens each time the non-elect reject Common Grace? They grow darker, more hardened, and develop a callused heart. See Romans 1:18-21

3. Once again, most Calvinists don't like the term "irresistible grace". It is too easily misunderstood and misinterpreted. What is the better term (even though it also ruins "tulip")? Effectual Call

4. What two situations do Arminians fear this Reformed doctrine sets up?

- The possibility that genuine, sincere seekers are left out
- That rebellious sinners could be forced into the Kingdom against their will.

4a. But, what does the Scripture teach?

- There is no such thing as a genuine, sincere seeker. See *Romans 3:10-12*
- Everyone chooses based on their nature. See *John 8:44 & Ephesians 2:1-3*
- Left alone, we would all choose rebellion/separation/rejection of God. See *John 3:19-20*
- God must change the nature of the elect = willingly choose the Savior. See *John 6:63-65*