

CALVINISM – JOHN CALVIN (1509–1564) allied himself to the reformation in 1532 and was only 26 years old when he wrote *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. At 32, he was recalled to Geneva to lead the Reformation effort there.

Note: these are *not* the same beliefs as 5 point “Tulip” Calvinism.

1. God is absolute sovereign over His creation.
2. God as sovereign both foreordains and foreknows all things, including each man’s destiny.
3. Originally man was pure and made in the image of God but has fallen from this state through his own voluntary act (hence, man has a freewill – FNJ).
4. Man can be saved only through the unmerited grace of God, as mediated to him through Christ. Fallen man can do nothing to promote his own salvation, and no amount of good works or keeping God’s laws can further it.
5. Those predestinated to salvation will be saved. (define “predestination” – FNJ)

Hyper-Calvinists emphasize God’s sovereignty but de-emphasize God’s love. They tend to set God’s sovereignty at odds with the clear biblical call to human responsibility. They say, to tell people to turn from their sin & repent is to command them to do something they are unable to do.