

**“Tulip” 5 Point Calvinism – A Beautiful Flower, But Bad Theology – Synod of Dort: Netherlands, 1619  
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**T** – Total Depravity: because he is spiritually dead to God “in trespasses and sins” (Eph.2:1; Col.2:13), man is *incapable* of responding to the gospel – that mankind has no “free will” yet is able to make moral choices other than responses to God. This is not true Calvinism!

“Tulip” declares: as a consequence of the Fall, man *cannot* understand the gospel, all minds are blinded and man is not able to respond to the gospel and turn to God – unless they are *first* regenerated. Their proof: Rom.3:10-18, “There is none righteous ... none that seeketh after God ...”

Question: where does Scripture say one must be regenerated before they can believe the gospel?

Question: which comes first, faith in Jesus or salvation? Answer: faith, a free gift from God to man, is *the condition* for salvation. Mk.1:14-15, 16:16; Lk.8:12; Rom.1:16, 10:17; Eph.1:13, 2:8

Question: how much ability or effort is required to *receive* a free gift? Would such be a work?

**U** – Unconditional Election: God decided in eternity past, on no basis whatsoever other than by the “mystery of His” will, to predestine some of mankind to eternal life (“the elect”, and that foreknowledge played absolutely no part in this) – but has reprobated all others, thereby condemning them to eternal Hell. Of course, if He so desired He could save them all.

If true, then God – who is love – doesn’t love *all* mankind! This is a major doctrinal problem for the proponents of “Tulip” Calvinism (cp. John 3:16). Furthermore, 1 Peter 1:2 declares we are: **Elect** according to the **foreknowledge** of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the **blood of Jesus Christ** (cp. Heb. 9:21)

**L** – Limited Atonement: these elect are the only ones for whom Christ died in order to pay the penalty for their sins – that His death is efficacious for no others.

**I** – Irresistible Grace: God causes whomsoever He will to be *unable* to resist the gospel and that without this enabling no one could do so. God only provides this “Irresistible Grace” to the predetermined elect and damns the rest of mankind. Moreover, as they never receive this “Irresistible Grace” they are totally incapable of ever believing the gospel.

Question: where oh where is the love of God in this drivel?

**P** – Perseverance of the saints: God will not allow any of the elect to lose the salvation which He has sovereignty given them. (they got only 1 right out of 5; see Eph. 1:13-14, 4:30)

The written Word of God is our authority, not the beliefs or opinions of John Calvin, Jacobus Arminius, any council, synod, assembly, or creed.

No “free will”? Find out for yourself and look for **Will not, not...can not** – Dt.28:62; Mat.22:2-3, 23:37; Psa.10:4; Lk.22:67; Joh.5:40; Acts 17:24-30; John 3:36, 4:42, 5:40, 12:32-33; Rom.5:6; 1 Tim.2:4; 1 John 2:2, 4:14; Rev.22:17 — man is regenerated by the Word (Jam.1:18) & the Holy Spirit (Joh.16:8)

To find out the truth, all one needs to do is check out one word. Take a Strong’s Concordance and look up the Scriptures with the word “choose”. (Why call on sinners to choose. If “Tulip” is right, the lost can’t and “the elect” don’t need to: they’re already irresistibly predestined)

**The entire Bible teaches that God holds man responsible for his choices and actions.**

## Predestination: the Bible Version – its Order and Purpose: Rom. 8:28-30; Eph. 1:3-14

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the **called** according to **his purpose**.

29 For whom **he did foreknow**, he also did **predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son** (red = that which is predestined), that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

30 Moreover **whom he did predestinate**, them he also **(1) called**: and whom he called, them he also **(2) justified**: and whom he justified, them he also **(3) glorified**.

Vs. 29 – Those God Foreknew, He **predestined** to be:

(A) conformed into the image of Christ Jesus, and

(B) adopted as sons (Eph. 1:4; this is our eternal inheritance, Eph. 1:11)

This is the predestined Plan. This is what “Predestination” is all about and nothing else!

And just **how** is this to be brought about?

**(1)** God **called** us: vs. 30

**(2)** If we responded, God **justified** us (vs. 30, He did not *make* us Righteous – He *declared* it so)

**(3)** Then, God **glorified** us (vs. 30: i.e., at the Rapture-Resurrection, He transforms us into Jesus’ image by giving us a glorified body: 1 Cor. 15:35-55; Phil. 3:20-21)

Now let us compare this to Ephesians 1:3-14 and examine the order there. We trusted Christ:

**(1)** **After** we **heard** the True Word (Eph. 1:13; not before we were even conceived)

**(2)** and **After** we **believed** the True Word: that is to say – the Gospel (Eph. 1:13)

**(3)** Then we **were** (past tense, i.e., it’s a forever finished happening) **Sealed** with the Holy Spirit, who is the **earnest** of our inheritance (how long will the seal last?) **until** the day of the redemption of the purchased possession (i.e., us; Eph. 1:13-14, 4:30). Beloved, if that is not security for the believer – it will hold us until we are secure (cp. Phil. 1:6)

Please observe that in both the above examples: the Call comes **before** the Election!

Finally, Eph. 1:4 - According as he hath chosen us in him (Christ, vs. 3) before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

This means that before the foundation of the world God already had a predestined plan, which decreed He would chose no one to be Holy and without blame *unless* they were in Christ Jesus. The motive for so doing was love (*agape* = *agaph*).

It does *not mean* that God decides on no basis whatsoever but by the “mystery of His will” to save some (the elect) and condemns all others to Hell – that from eternity, God has predestined some men to eternal life and reprobated others to Hell (aka 5 Point Tulip Calvinism: again, where is the love of God in such drivel as this?).