

Calvin's TULIP

T - Total Depravity

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Calvin's TULIP

- TULIP is the five-point foundational summary of modern reformed theology.
- TULIP is a set of assumptions that are required for reformed theology to hold together.
- TULIP has been so widely taught in some circles that one would think that those who do not hold to its points are unorthodox.
- TULIP proponents have successfully propagated the idea that the opposite of Calvinism is Arminian Theology.

Calvin's TULIP

- Total Depravity
- Unconditional Election
- Limited Atonement
- Irresistible Grace
- Preservation of the Saints

Definitions of Total Depravity

The corruption of sin extends to all men and to all parts of all men so that there is nothing within the natural man that can give him merit in God's sight.

Charles Caldwell Ryrie, *A Survey of Bible Doctrine* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1972).

Definitions of Total Depravity

A state of corruption due to original sin held in Calvinism to infect every part of man's nature and to make the natural man unable to know or obey God

Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary., Eleventh ed. (Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, Inc., 2003).

Definitions of Total Depravity

“What is the correct doctrine of total depravity?” Three things should be noted. First, it means that sin has touched every part of man (Rom. 1:31-32; 3:9-18). Secondly, total depravity means that all men have a tendency to perform evil (Rom. 7:17, 20-21, 23, 25). The third thing that total depravity means is that no one has any good works in the sight of God. Although man can do good works, those good works in no way commend him to God.

Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum, *The Messianic Bible Study Collection* (Tustin, CA: Ariel Ministries, 1983). 6-7.

Definitions of Total Depravity

It is because of this condition that the verdict of Scripture is heard: we are “dead in trespasses and sins” (Ephesians 2:1); we are “sold under sin” (Romans 7:14); we are in “captivity to the law of sin” (Romans 7:23) and are “by nature children of wrath” (Ephesians 2:3). Only by the quickening power of the Holy Spirit may we be brought out of this state of spiritual death.

R. C. Sproul, *Essential Truths of the Christian Faith* (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House, 1992).

Definitions of Total Depravity

What predestination means, in its most elementary form, is that our final destination, heaven or hell, is decided by God not only before we get there, but before we are even born. It teaches that our ultimate destiny is in the hands of God. Another way of saying it is this: From all eternity, before we even existed, God decided to save some members of the human race and to let the rest of the human race perish.

R. C. Sproul, *Essential Truths of the Christian Faith* (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House, 1992).

Definitions of Total Depravity

The Reformed view holds that, left to himself, no fallen person would ever choose God. Fallen people still have a free will and are able to choose what they desire. But the problem is that we have no desire for God and will not choose Christ unless first regenerated. Faith is a gift that comes out of rebirth. Only those who are elect will ever respond to the gospel in faith. The elect do choose Christ, but only because they were first chosen by God.

R. C. Sproul, *Essential Truths of the Christian Faith* (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House, 1992).

Summary of positions

- The Reformed (Calvinist) position: A person's nature is so radically corrupt that they would never choose to accept the gift of God's grace under any circumstances outside of the regenerating work of God.
- The non-Reformed position: Every individual is a sinner with no capability of producing righteousness unto salvation.

What does the Scripture say?

- God created Adam, then Eve, as fully developed, fully functional human beings.
- God gave Adam & Eve every provision for life, including the provision of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. The first couple was prohibited from partaking of these provisions and commanded to live innocent of the knowledge the tree would provide.
- God gave the punishment which would come to Adam & Eve if they broke that command: “and of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, thou dost not eat of it, for in the day of thine eating of it—dying thou dost die.” (Genesis 2:17, YLT)

What does the Scripture say?

- God held to the promised punishment by casting Adam & Eve out of the Garden and removing them from the Tree of Life, and introducing death into the world. “Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin...” (Romans 5:12, NASB95)

The BIG Question

What would happen to Adam & Eve's children?

- What would their nature be?
- What would their abilities be?
- Would they be able to respond to God?
- Is there anything in the promised punishment or curse that would remove the ability to respond to God?
- Genesis 4:1-7

Genesis 4:1-7

It appears:

- Both understood the need to come to the Lord with sacrifice.
- The Lord did not receive Cain's sacrifice because it did not meet the Lord's demands.
- The Lord gave clear instruction for Cain's renewed relationship with Himself: "If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up?" (Genesis 4:7)
- The Lord put full responsibility on Cain for his response: "you must master it" (Genesis 4:7)

The Scripture is full of calls to turn to the Lord

- Jeremiah 3:12
- Ezekiel 33:11
- Isaiah 55:6-7
- Acts 3:19
- Are these legitimate calls to return?
- Are these calls to the legitimate wicked?

Is there any man who is righteous in his own merit?

“because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin. But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;” (Romans 3:20-24, NASB95)

- What is the gift?

What is the gift?

“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9, NASB95)

Where is the teaching that one cannot come to God without regeneration?

“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9, NASB95)

John 6 - Strong references to the salvation of Israel's remnant

- God has promised to give the remnant of Israel to His Son as His inheritance.
- Jesus claims that He will lose none of His inheritance. John 6:39
- Jesus claims that God's will is that "everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life..." John 6:40
- Jesus promises to fulfill God's will "on the last day." John 6:40
- Jesus states that only those the Father draws can come to Him. John 6:44
- Jesus says that those who are "raised on the last day" will be "taught of God." John 6:45

Romans 1:16, 10:17

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.” (Romans 1:16, NASB95)

“So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.” (Romans 10:17, NASB95)

Summary

Total Depravity is true and Biblical IF you define it as the total inability to gather any righteousness, good works, or human capability that will merit salvation or sanctification.

Total Depravity is false and unBiblical IF you define it as the inability to respond to the Gospel without a prior conversion experience.

Questions?

- www.RandyWhiteMinistries.org
- Pray for us -
 - Website issues
 - App issues
 - Great opportunities
- Albuquerque, May 24
- Next week - U - Unconditional Election