

The background of the slide features a faded, sepia-toned photograph of four large statues of men in historical religious attire, likely the Reformers. They are standing in a row, with the second figure from the left holding a book. The statues are set against a light-colored wall. At the bottom of the image, there is a stone ledge with a carved inscription that reads 'IHS' in the center, flanked by decorative flourishes.

A SURVEY OF THE REFORMATION

ITS HISTORY & DOCTRINE

HISTORY

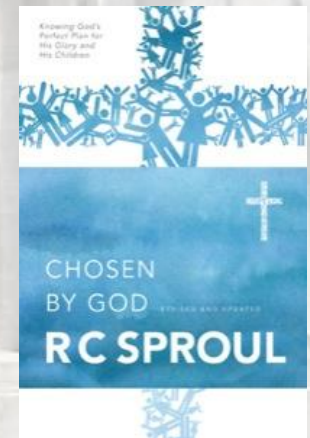
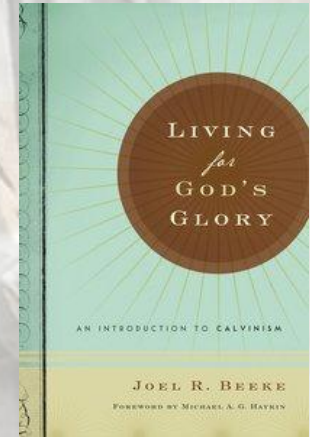
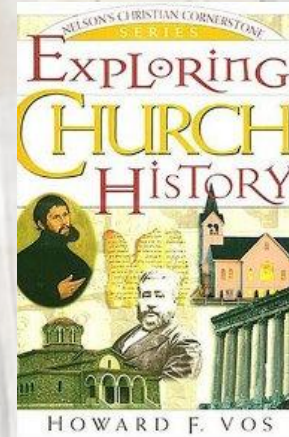
1. Intro & Overview of Church History
2. Forerunners of the Reformation
3. The Protestant Reformation
4. Puritanism & the Legacy of the Reformers

DOCTRINE

1. Reformation Doctrine: The Big Picture
2. **Total Depravity & Irresistible Grace (cont.)**
3. Unconditional Election & Particular Redemption
4. Perseverance of the Saints & Answering Objections
5. Why the Reformation Matters Today

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

- *Exploring Church History* by Howard F. Vos (Thomas Nelson, 1996)
- *Living for God's Glory: An Introduction to Calvinism* by Joel R. Beeke (Reformation Trust, 2008)
- *Chosen by God* by R.C. Sproul (Tyndale, 1986)
- *What We Believe about the Five Points of Calvinism* by John Piper (booklet, 1985) – available online at DesiringGod.org.





RECAP OF THE “FIVE POINTS” OF CALVINISM

BACKGROUND & DEFINITIONS

THE “FIVE SOLAS”

Protestant	Roman Catholic
Scripture alone (<i>sola Scriptura</i>)	Scripture and tradition
Faith alone (<i>sola fide</i>)	Faith and works
Grace alone (<i>sola gratia</i>)	Grace and merit
Christ alone (<i>solus Christus</i>)	Christ, Mary, & intercession of saints
Glory to God alone (<i>solī Deo gloria</i>)	God, saints, and church hierarchy

~ adapted from *Living for God's Glory: An Introduction to Calvinism* by Joel R. Beeke (RHB, 2008), pg. 5

FOUNDATIONAL BUT SECONDARY

- “**Calvinism**” is a family doctrine. It is for the people of God, not important for unbelievers to learn.
- This doctrine explains what happens “behind the scenes” in conversion (from God’s perspective). It is Biblical and important, but secondary.
- Calvinism is often **misrepresented**. People reject the caricatures rather than the real doctrine.
- Calvinism is a term not a movement worshiping a man.
- The system of thought is easily explained by using the **term** *Calvinism*, but Calvinists don’t necessarily follow John Calvin on all points.

A HUMBLE DOCTRINE

- Ultimately, Calvinism is a humble doctrine. It bows to the word of God in spite of human tendencies to elevate man's role in salvation.
- Many Calvinists (myself included) were converted to the system reluctantly, and so understand the difficulties many have with this doctrine.
- R.C. Sproul talks about coming to believe in Calvinism even though he didn't want to. He put a note on his desk to this effect:

“You are required to believe, to preach and to teach what the Bible says is true, not what you want the Bible to say is true.” – R.C. Sproul

THE FIVE POINTS OF CALVINISM

- Today, the five counter-points that Dort raised against the Arminians, are remembered as the “five points of Calvinism” [TULIP].

Total Depravity – Fallen Man’s Inability to Come

Unconditional Election – God’s Sovereign Choice

Limited Atonement – Our Particular Redemption

Irresistible Grace – God’s Gracious, Enabling Call

Perseverance of the Saints – The Completion of God’s Work in Us



TULIP: **T**OTAL DEPRAVITY

FALLEN MAN'S INABILITY TO COME

TOTAL DEPRAVITY

Total Depravity means that every aspect of man is tainted by sin. No one is as evil as they can be, but evil affects every part of our being – mind, will, heart, etc. We do not seek after God, naturally. And apart from God's initiative, we cannot please god. In fact, we are enslaved by the devil and are lost, blinded to the truth of the gospel and in need of God to mercifully reach down and intervene.

- Some prefer to use the phrase “**Radical Corruption.**”
- Emphasizes man's inability to believe due to his depraved heart.

TOTALITY

- TOTAL refers to:
 - All faculties of man – heart (affections), mind (thinking), body and soul are depraved – Gen. 8:21, Prov. 22:15, 1 Cor. 2:14, Eph. 4:17-19, Tit. 3:3
 - Rebellion against God is complete – Rom. 5:10
 - Inability to “do good”, “seek after God” or to “please God” – Rom. 3:9-18; 7:18; 8:7-8; 14:23
- TOTAL does not mean:
 - Every man is as bad as he can be (due to God’s common grace blessing whereby he restrains evil).
 - Every man is equally bad (in a relative sense).

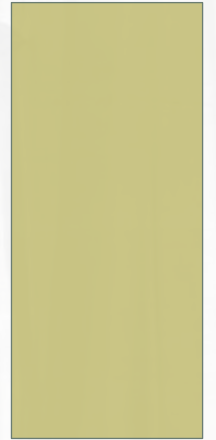
INHERITED SIN & “FREE WILL”

- **Original Sin** = doctrine that all humans are guilty due to Adam's sin, and all inherit sin because of Adam's fall.
 - Adam is our “federal head” – Rom. 5:12, 15-19; 1 Cor. 15:22-23
 - We are sinners “by nature” – Eph. 2:3
 - We are sinners from birth – Ps. 51:5, 58:3
 - We are captive to our “father the Devil” – Jn. 8:44, Acts 26:18, 2 Cor. 4:4, 2 Tim. 2:26
- In fact, **we are “DEAD” in our sins** – Eph. 2:1-3
 - We have no sensitivity to spiritual life.
 - We don't need medicine, we need resurrection.
 - We don't need heart surgery, we need a heart transplant – Ezek. 36:25-27
- Free Will = the **ability to choose what we want**
 - Man has this natural ability
 - But man's will is bound by his evil desires
- We are free to choose what we want, but we are **unable to want or desire to please God**. (Rom. 8:7-8).
 - Our “want-ers” are broken



TULIP: IRRESISTIBLE GRACE

GOD'S GRACIOUS, ENABLING CALL



IRRESISTIBLE GRACE

Irresistible Grace does not mean that no one can resist God's grace. People do resist. But for all who have been elected, God will overcome their resistance and graciously save them. This captures the idea of regeneration preceding faith. Calvinists believe faith flows from a heart that has been regenerated. A dead heart cannot believe. Faith is the sign of what happened behind the scenes in the internal workings of the heart. So while it may look like faith causes the new birth from our perspective, it actually is the new birth which evidences itself in faith.

- Some prefer to use the phrase “**Effectual Grace.**”
- Emphasizes God's inward call which successfully imparts faith to the elect.

BUT CAN'T WE RESIST?

- People do resist God's outward call – Acts 7:51, Eph. 4:30, 1 Thess. 5:19
- But man is not neutral and able to evaluate God's call without a bias.
- God's grace is effective, and effects His purpose in sending it.
 - “Who can resist God's will?” – Rom. 9:19

WHAT KIND OF GRACE

- Arminianism: **Prevenient Grace**
 - This is given to all men equally and allows their fallen natures to freely choose or reject salvation.
 - John 1:9 and Tit. 2:11 are their proof texts.
 - This seems to make nonsense of all the teaching about the condition of fallen man.
- Calvinism: **Sovereign Grace**
 - This is given to the elect and enables them to believe the gospel
 - This is why believers are considered “the called” 1 Cor. 1:23-24 (from those who hear the **outward call** of preaching, some evidence themselves to be “the called” – those who have received the **inward call**)

DRAWING: JOHN 6:37, 44, 65)

- No one can come to Christ without being “drawn” – John 6:44
 - “Draw” = “compel” (cf. James 2:6, Acts 16:19)
 - In Jn. 12:32, draw “all men” refers to all types of men, Gentiles and Jews.
- All who are “given/drawn” will come – John 6:37
- No one who comes will be cast out – John 6:37
- Those who are “drawn” were “granted” belief – John 6:65
- The reason not all believe, is because not all were “granted” – John 6:64-65

GIFTS OF GOD

The following are “gifts of God” – given freely. If man has natural ability, why must God provide these gifts?

- **Faith** (Phil. 1:29, 1 Pet. 1:21, 2 Pet. 1:1, Rom. 12:3)
- **Repentance** (2 Tim. 2:25, Acts 5:31, Acts 11:18)
- **Conversion** (Eph. 2:8-10, John. 6:65, Acts 16:14, James 1:18, Phil. 1:6, Matt. 11:27, John 1:13)

REGENERATION PRECEDES FAITH

- Belief flows from a changed / renewed heart – 1 John 5:1.
- Love & Life evidence the new birth – 1 John 4:7, John 3:6-8
- Faith and Repentance are gifts of God.
- The New Birth comes from “God’s will” not mans – John 1:13, James 1:18.
- God opens our hearts to listen to the gospel – Acts 16:14
- To believe we need circumcised hearts – Deut. 30:6, Ezek. 36:25-27.
- Belief flows from our nature – John 10:14-16 (other sheep will listen to Jesus’ voice) & John 10:24-30 (you don’t believe because you are not sheep)
- Belief comes from our being “appointed” – Acts 13:48

NEW HAMPSHIRE BAPTIST CONFESSION (1833)

Section 7: Of Grace in Regeneration:

We believe that, in order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated, or born again (Jn. 3:3, 6-7; 1 Cor. 1:14, Rev. 8:7-9; 21:27); that **regeneration** consists in **giving a holy disposition to the mind** (2 Cor. 5:17; Ez. 36:26; Deut. 30:6; Rom. 2:28-29; 5:5; 1 Jn. 4:7); that it is effected in a manner above our comprehension by the power of the Holy Spirit, in connection with divine truth (Jn. 3:8; 1:13; Jam. 1:16-18; 1 Cor. 1:30; Phil. 2:13), so as to **secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel** (1 Pet. 1:22-25; 1 Jn. 5:1; Eph. 4:20-24; Col. 3:9-11); and that its proper **evidence** appears in the holy fruits of **repentance, and faith, and newness of life** (Eph. 5:9; Rom. 8:9; Gal. 5:16-23; Eph. 3:14-21; Matt. 3:8-10; 7:20; 1 Jn. 5:4, 18).