



Unity is critical to the health of a church (1 Corinthians 1:10). Calvinism & Reformed Theology are experiencing a resurgence in Christianity. CBC has two BSF classes currently studying *The Epistles to the Romans* (which is often used by Calvinists to defend their beliefs). To help maintain the strength of our unity, let's understand why CBC does not embrace Calvinist teachings.

Let's consider five subjects:

1. God's Salvation Process

Romans 8:29-30; 1 Peter 1:1-2

2. Understanding John Calvin

1500's – lived in France & Switzerland. Studied for RC priesthood at 14 years of age. Rejected Catholicism in his 20's. His writings after leaving Catholicism have shaped the thinking of significant groups.

1. Calvin the Persecutor
 2. Calvin the Baby-Baptizer
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3. Calvin's Theology Developed

1. Jacobus Arminius & "The Remonstrance"
2. Synod of Dort & "TULIP"

T-otal Depravity
U-nconditional Election
L-imited Atonement
I-rresistible Grace
P-erseverance of the Saints

4. Strange Results of Calvinism

1. New Birth Precedes Repentance & Faith

John 3:9-21; Acts 16:30-31; 2 Thessalonians 2:13

"Faith is not the cause of the new birth, but the consequence of it..." (A.W. Pink, *The Sovereignty of God*, p. 73)

2. "Faith" is a "Work"

Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 4:2-5

3. Calvinism & Missions

"When God pleases to convert the heathen, he will do it without your aid or mine!" – Dr. Ryland to William Carey

4. Calvinism & Inviting the Lost to be Saved

"...to preach that it is man's duty to believe savingly in Christ is ABSURD" (*Earthen Vessel*, 1857).

5. Rejecting Calvinism

1. Calvinism Rejects the Simplicity of "God's Foreknowledge"

1 Peter 1:1-2

⇒ God chose because He knew something.

⇒ God's choice was carried out in the sphere of the Holy Spirit's Ministry

2. Calvinism Forces Preconceived Ideas on the Bible

Acts 13:48, 46; John 6:37, 40; John 6:44; 12:32

Conclusion – *God Provides Salvation for All!*

1) God's will is for all to be saved – 1 Tim. 3:5-6; 2 Pet. 3:9

2) God did provide for salvation for all – 1 Jn. 2:2

3) God gave man a choice to believe or disbelieve – Jn. 3:16

Calvinism's *bottom line* issue is with what it means to say God "loves" all people. Does He love the one who He created as a helpless sinner, then choose to not provide a means for that person to be saved so He can justly send them to hell to glorify His justice?



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