



Unity is critical to the health of a church (1 Corinthians 1:10). Calvinism & Reformed Theology are experiencing a resurgence in Christianity. 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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