

# **CHURCH HISTORY & PURITAN THEOLOGY**



## **PRIMITIVE BAPTISTS AND HYPER-CALVINISM: A SCHOLARLY ARTICLE**

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CHURCH

# Primitive Baptists And Hyper-Calvinism

Posted by MARCHTOZION.COM on AUGUST 21, 2020

I have noticed a troubling movement among Fullerite Calvinists to redefine Hyper-Calvinism as being any viewpoint which rejects their view on the atonement\* and duty faith (including many traditional 5-point Calvinists and other Predestinarians). Thus, a common attack against Primitive Baptists in recent years has been that we are Hyper-Calvinists.

Many mainstream Fullerite Calvinists have made this a personal vendetta. Countless blog entries and Youtube videos are out there promoting a very narrow definition (and I say a REDEFINED description) of Hyper-Calvinism. The Wikipedia entry on Hypercalvinism has been rewritten in such a way, reflecting the very bias and condemnatory opinion of the writer (at least as of June 2010). There was even a local Fullerite Baptist church which hosted a conference last year in north Alabama entitled the “Quagmire of Hyper-Calvinism.”

I want to share a very thorough definition of Hyper-Calvinism I acquired from Monergism.com with you and contrast the views of historic Hyper-Calvinists with the views of mainstream Primitive Baptists. My comments will be as brief as possible. Also, I have added numbers to each individual article so that my comments can follow.

[Monergism.com](#) defines Hyper-Calvinism as follows:

- 1 – that God is the author of sin and of evil
- 2 – that men have no will of their own, and secondary causes are of no effect
- 3 – that the number of the elect at any time may be known by men
- 4 – that it is wrong to evangelize
- 5 – that assurance of election must be sought prior to repentance and faith
- 6 – that men who have once sincerely professed belief are saved regardless of what they later do
- 7 – that God has chosen some races of men and has rejected others
- 8 – that the children of unbelievers dying in infancy are certainly damned
- 9 – that God does not command everyone to repent

12 – that the Scriptures are intended to be interpreted by individuals only and not by the church.

13 – that no government is to be obeyed which does not acknowledge that Jesus is the Lord, or that Biblical Law is its source of authority

14 – that the grace of God does not work for the betterment of all men

15 – that saving faith is equivalent to belief in the doctrine of predestination

16 – that only Calvinists are Christians (Neo-gnostic Calvinism)

I will now take each article individually and contrast the Hyper-Calvinist views, as presented, to Primitive Baptist beliefs.

**1. God is the author of sin** – Primitive Baptists not only deny this, but actually abhor this doctrine. There have been minorities of fatalistic determinists among Primitive Baptists in the last two centuries called “absolute predestinarians” (subscribing to the absolute predestination of all things) who held this view, but they were rejected by mainstream Primitive Baptists and are nearly extinct.

**2. Men have no will of their own** – Primitive Baptists believe men do indeed have a will of their own. We are made in God’s own image. God has a will. Therefore, we must have a will. We do believe in, as scripture teaches, total depravity and that a man’s will is determined by his nature. Prior to regeneration his nature is totally evil and corrupt because of Adam’s original sin. Thus, natural men cannot “will” to serve Jesus Christ. Yet, after Regeneration (when God gives a new nature) the individual’s will is quite different, and he chooses (wills) between a path of obedience or disobedience.

**3. The number of the elect at any time may be known by men** – Primitive Baptists certainly do not believe this. Only God knows the scope of His elect. We do know, through scripture, that the elect are out of every nation, kindred, and tongue. However, we do not pretend to be able to identify each of God’s elect at any given time.

**4. It is wrong to evangelize** – Primitive Baptists believe very strongly in evangelism. What we reject, is the machinery of modern missions, which replaces the influence and enabling of the Spirit with mission boards and money. We also believe that the purpose of evangelism is to educate God’s elect of their salvation, but reject the idea that only evangelized people can be the elect and also the idea that the gospel is the instrument of regeneration. We hold to the belief of “Immediate Spirit Regeneration,” ie regeneration without a mediator. The Spirit regenerates by God’s Grace. Then, the gospel converts such a person to the truth. Primitive Baptists have been blessed to evangelize in modern times in Tanzania, Kenya, Ghana, Mexico, and the Philippines.

**5. Assurance of election must be sought prior to repentance and faith** – I have never heard such among our people. We require fruits of repentance prior to baptism and