

The WILTED TULIP of CALVINISM *vs.* The WONDROUS TRUTH of CHRIST

Calvinism's Five Points		Calvinist's False Presumption (Westminster Confession of Faith, 1643)	Christianity's Factual Presentation (Scriptural Rebuttal to Calvinism)
T	"Total Depravity"	Man, because he is spiritually dead to God "in trespasses and in sins" (Ephesians 2:1; Colossians 2:13), is incapable of responding to the gospel, though able to make other moral choices.	Scripture does not support the notion that unsaved people are incapable of responding to the Gospel (Proverbs 1:23; Isaiah 55:6,7; Acts 17:30). Receiving Christ always precedes the new birth (John 1:12,13).
U	"Unconditional Election"	God decides on no basis whatsoever but by the mystery of His will to save some, called the elect, and to allow all others to go to hell, even though He could save all mankind if He so desired.	God is entirely "without partiality" (James 3:17), and "no respecter of persons" (Romans 2:11; Acts 10:34). All men are equally worthy of His condemnation and unworthy of His grace (Isaiah 53:6; Romans 3:23).
L	"Limited Atonement"	The elect are the only ones for whom Christ died in payment of the penalty for their sins, and that his death is efficacious for no others, nor was intended to be.	Rejecting Christ's ransom does not diminish its value. He "gave Himself a ransom for all" (1 Timothy 2:6; Isaiah 53:6), dying "for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for <i>the sins of the whole world</i> " (1 John 2:2).
I	"Irresistible Grace"	God is able to cause whomever he will to respond to the gospel; that without this enabling, no one could do so; and that he only provides this Irresistible Grace to the elect and damns the rest.	"Turn you at My reproof... choose" (Proverbs 1:23,29). "God... now commandeth all men everywhere to repent" (Acts 17:30). Yet if Calvinism is true, these pleadings are a sham. Those who are the elect do not need them, and the non-elect can't heed them. What love is this?
P	"Perseverance of the Saints"	God will not allow any of the elect to fail to persevere in living a life consistent with the salvation that he has sovereignly given them.	While our new nature prompts us to "follow" (John 10:27) and love God "because He first loved us" (1 John 4:19), it is not our perseverance, but rather the faithfulness of God to keep His Word that causes us to rejoice with assurance (John 5:24; 1 John 5:12,13).