

# Amazing Grace: Intro to Reformed Theology

## Week 7 - Irresistible Grace

*Reformed Theology* - “An expression of the Christian faith that is centered and grounded on the Sovereignty of God in all things.”

The 5 Points of Calvinism (main distinctive of RT)

- T - total depravity
- U - unconditional election
- L - limited atonement
- **I - irresistible grace**
- P - perseverance of the saints

### Salvation and the Trinity

- The Father **AUTHORS**
- The Son **ACCOMPLISHES**
- The Spirit **APPLIES**

### Regeneration and Faith

- Regeneration: spiritual rebirth (dead in our trespasses -> alive in Christ)
- Faith: the only instrument God uses to justify sinners
- What happens first?

### The Theme of Life out of Death

- Creation - Genesis 1
- Physical Resurrection - John 11
- Spiritual Rebirth - Ephesians 2

### Irresistible Grace and Effectual Calling

- Romans 8:30
- Outward call of the Gospel can be resisted - Matthew 22:14
- Inward call of the Spirit can never be resisted.....IT IS ALWAYS EFFECTIVE!

### Why Does It Matter? (practical application)

- Spiritual conversion is not dependent upon me
- The power and priority of God's word
- God truly is the “Hound of Heaven”....His desired outcomes cannot be stopped

## Reflection Questions

1. With the Arminian argument, God chooses those *he knows will choose him*, Jesus dies for *everyone* regardless of whether they will choose him or not, and the Holy Spirit draws every person *who hears the Gospel* and he draws everyone in the same way. Fundamentally in this view God's work is scattered and undirected, rather than being unified.

The Reformed view, however, argues that the Father chooses in eternity the very same people for whom the Son accomplishes their salvation, and it is those same people who will be drawn by the Holy Spirit unto salvation. In this case, the will and work of God is unified.

Discuss these two views—what are the weaknesses and strengths of each?

2. Pastor Rob described the way in which we need to be “born again,” as Jesus says in John 3, which is the biblical term for what we call “regeneration.” Given what we have seen in previous weeks with total depravity and unconditional election, individuals become born according to God's will, not their own.

In this case, which comes first? Does God have to make you alive (regenerate you) first before you exercise faith? Or do you exercise faith *before* God makes you alive? Discuss.

3. The Bible frequently refers to our salvation as nothing less than resurrection from the dead, re-creation, like the blind receiving sight, etc. Of course only God can cause resurrection or create or restore sight. In light of those metaphors, how might we understand this as being “irresistible”?
4. What else struck you about Pastor Rob's discussion of the various biblical texts he specifically referenced (Gen. 1, John 11, Eph. 2, Rom. 8:30, Matt. 22:14)?
5. What is the good news of irresistible grace? How does it change your view of your own salvation? How does it change your understanding of evangelism? How does it give you hope for those in your life who do not know Christ?