

**FAITH UNDER FIRE**



## “Reformed...and Still on Purpose”

May 14, 2025

**Recap: 1) Why Religion? 2) Why Christianity? 3) Can I Trust the Bible? 4) Did Jesus Really Resurrect?**

**INTRO:** Wrestling with the Mystery as a college freshman...If God is Sovereign, do my choices matter?

*“The Bible never tells us how God organizes his control over men’s minds without hindering their freedom. But it affirms that He does so. Human responsibility and divine sovereignty are both realities.”— J.I. Packer Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God, p. 22*

## What is Reformed Theology?

**Definition:** Reformed theology is a God-centered framework rooted in the authority of Scripture that exalts the sovereign grace of God in salvation, humbles the sinner, magnifies Christ, and fuels a life of worship, holiness, and mission.

*“Reformed theology is nothing less than biblical Christianity”. – R.C. Sproul, What is Reformed Theology?, p. 21*

5 Soli’s – 1) Sola Scriptura (24%) 2) Sola Gratia 3) Sola Fide 4) Solus Christus 5) Soli Deo Gloria

## What is Calvinism? (TULIP)

**T** – Total Depravity – we aren’t just broken, we’re dead in sin (66% of evangelicals think people=good)  
Romans 3:10-12, Ephesians 2:1-3

*“We are not sinners because we sin. We sin because we are sinners.”. – R.C. Sproul, Chosen by God?, p. 117*

**U** – Unconditional Election - God chooses whom He will save based on His grace/mercy not our merit.  
Ephesians 1:4-5, Romans 9:11-16

**L** – Limited Atonement (Definite Redemption) – Jesus died to save His people/sheep, not just make salvation possible.

Matthew 1:21, John 10:14-15

**I** – Irresistible Grace – God’s grace doesn’t crush the will, it transforms it  
John 6:44, Acts 16:14

**P** – Perseverance of the Saints – True believers will endure in faith to the end.  
Philippians 1:6, John 6:37

**Biblical Case Study – Saul’s Conversion (Acts 9:1-19)**

## Common Objections & Biblical Responses?

- Objection #1 - “That’s not Fair or God is Cruel”
  - a. Reformed response: God gives mercy to some and justice to others--but never injustice.
  - b. Scripture: **Romans 9:14-18**, 2 Peter 3:9, John 3:16

*“The issue is not why God doesn’t save everyone. The issue is why He saves anyone at all.” – R.C. Sproul, Chosen by God, p.53*

*“God’s design is to magnify His mercy and justice.” – J. Edwards, End for Which God created the World, p.122*

- Objection #2 - “Why evangelize or pray if God already chose?”
  - a. Reformed response: God ordains the end—and the means (60% of teens say...)
  - b. Scripture: **Acts 13:48**, **Romans 10:14**, James 5:16, Philipians 4:6-7
- Objection #3 - “So...you can do whatever you want & not lose salvation”
  - a. Reformed response: True believers endure—not because of their strength, but God’s
  - b. Scripture: **Romans 6:1-2**, **John 10:27-29**, 1 John 2:19, James 2:17
- Objection #4 - “God chose based on foreseen faith”
  - a. Reformed response: Foreknew means Foreloved. Election causes faith—not reverse
  - b. Scripture: Romans 8:29, John 10:25
- Objection #5 - “We’re just robots then”
  - a. Reformed response: God works through our willing choices.
  - b. Scripture: Philipians 2:12-13, Acts 2:23

*“Grace does not destroy the will but sweetly and powerfully draws it.” – John Owen, The Holy Spirit, p.308*

- Objection #6 - “What about my friend or family member?”
  - a. Reformed response: We grieve loved ones, but our grief doesn’t override God’s Justice
  - b. Scripture: Romans 9:20

*“Your grief may be the very tool God uses to save them.” – Bruce Ware, God’s Greater Glory, p.126*

## Why this Matters?

- 1) It gives you assurance – John 10:28 – you’re not holding onto God, He’s holding unto you
- 2) It humbles you – 1 Corinthians 1:29 – no boasting
- 3) It fuels mission – Romans 1:16 – we preach boldly because God saves
- 4) It gives strength in suffering – Romans 8:28 – even your pain is in Gods hands
- 5) It calls you to holiness – Ephesians 2:10 – saved for good works
- 6) It leads to deeper worship – Ephesians 1:6 – to the praise of his Glorious grace

*“You don’t sing Amazing Free Will. You sing Amazing Grace.” – R.C., What is Reformed Theology, p.58*





**SCAN TO SERVE**