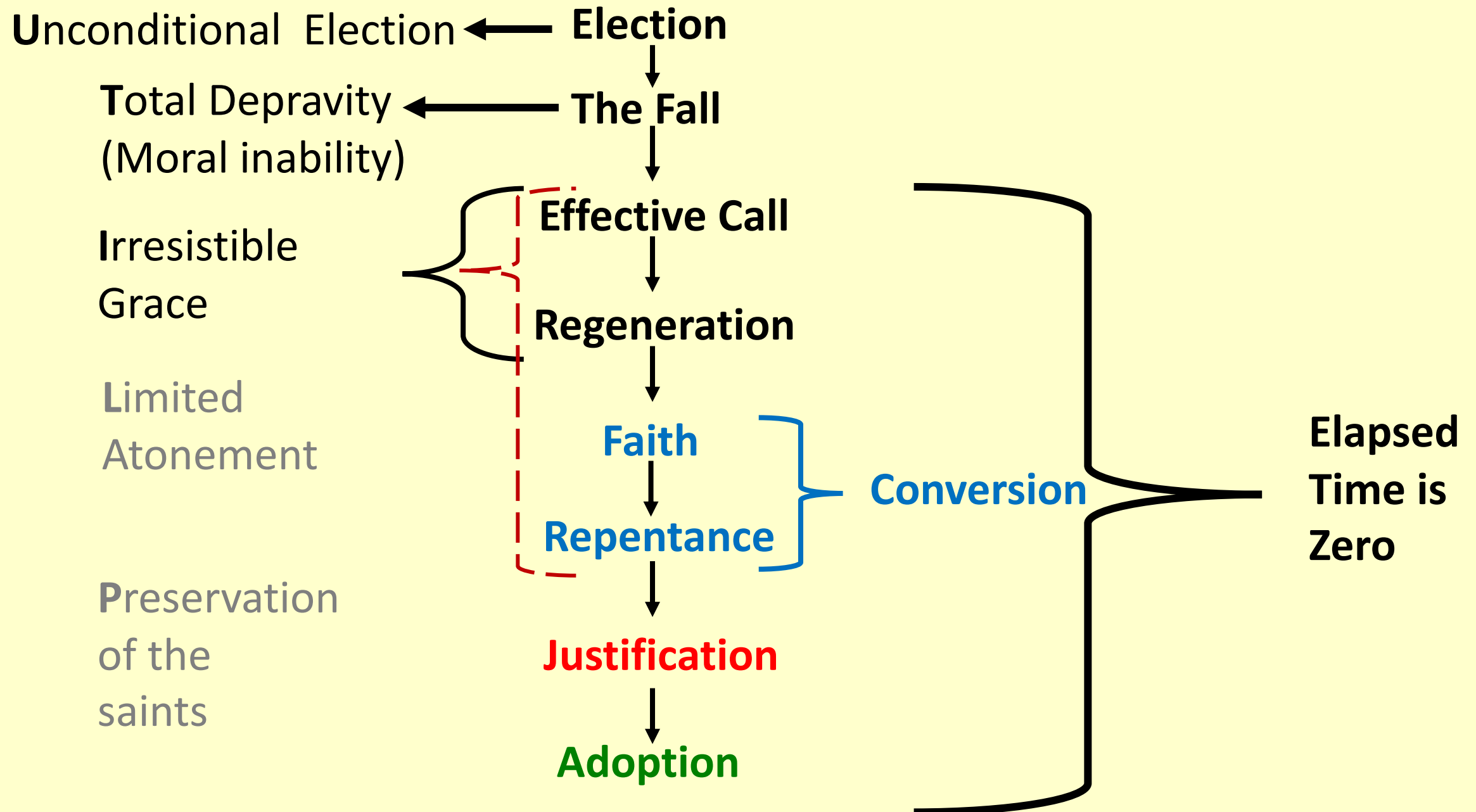


**Discipleship:
An
Introduction to
Systematic Theology and
Apologetics**

Protestant Reformation Doctrines of Salvation

The Heights Church February 2, 2020

Sequence of Salvation (Review)



The Fall – We are morally unable to believe in God. (Review)

For the mind that is set on the **flesh is hostile to God**, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, **it cannot**. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. (Romans 8:7-8)

The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and **he is not able to understand them** because they are spiritually discerned. (1 Corinthians 2:14)

The Fall – We are morally unable to believe in God. (Review)

So the result is:

And you were **dead** in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience - among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were **by nature children of wrath**, like the rest of mankind. (Ephesians 2:1-4)

Election: Objections to the Doctrine of Election

1. Election means we do not have a choice of believing or not believing in Jesus.
 - According to this objection the doctrine of election denies all the gospel invitations that appeal to a person's will to believe in Christ.
 - There is a false assumption behind this objection: A genuine choice must not be caused in any way by God.
 - God can work sovereignly through the elect's desires so that he guarantees they freely and willingly believe in Jesus as he has ordained by **Calling** and **Regeneration**.

Election: Objections to the Doctrine of Election

1. Election means we do not have a choice of believing or not believing in Jesus.
 - If we are born morally unable to believe in Jesus apart from a work of God (both Arminians and Methodists agree) then why would it be a bad thing if God decreed because of his grace, love and mercy that some would believe and glorify God?

Election: Objections to the Doctrine of Election

2. The doctrine of Election means unbelievers never had a chance to believe.

- People are confronted with such clarity about God that they have no excuse for not believing.

For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So **they are without excuse**. Romans 1:19 – 20)

Election: Objections to the Doctrine of Election

2. The doctrine of Election means unbelievers never had a chance to believe.

- The Bible does not allow us to say this. When people rejected Jesus he always put the blame on their willful choice to reject him.

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and **you would not!** (Matthew 23:37)

Election: Objections to the Doctrine of Election

You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, yet **you refuse** to come to me that you may have life. (John 5:39 – 40)

Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. **You are of your father the devil**, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. (John 8:43 – 44)

Election: Objections to the Doctrine of Election

2. The doctrine of Election means unbelievers never had a chance to believe.

- Unbelievers have no right to challenge God.

So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills. You will say to me then, "Why does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?" But **who are you, O man, to answer back to God?** Will what is molded say to its molder, "Why have you made me like this?" Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use? (Romans 9:18 – 21)

Election: Objections to the Doctrine of Election

3. Election is unfair.

- It would be perfectly fair for God to not save anyone. The fact that he saves some goes well beyond the requirements of fairness and justice. Paul's response in Romans 9:20 appeals to God's rights as the omnipotent Creator. There is a point where we may not answer back to God or question his justice.

Election: Objections to the Doctrine of Election

4. The Bible says it is God's will to save everyone.

This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

(1 Timothy 2:3 – 4) or

The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. (2 Peter 3:9)

Election: Objections to the Doctrine of Election

- We have studied these verses in the past and observed that 1 Timothy 2:4 can be understood as not every person but every category of persons. And 2 Peter 3:9 refers to all of the elect.
- Another way to understand such passages is to see that they refer to God's revealed will and not his hidden will for what will happen. In other words the verse simply tells us God invites and commands every person to believe in Christ but they tell us nothing about God's secret decrees regarding who will be saved.

Election: The Doctrine of Reprobation

Wayne Grudem defines Reprobation as: *the sovereign decision of God before creation to pass over some persons, in sorrow deciding not to save them, and to punish them for their sins, and thereby manifest his justice.*

- For many people this is the most difficult of all the teachings of Scripture apart from the Doctrine of Hell.
- However, it is an expected outcome based upon the Doctrine of Moral Inability and the Doctrine of Election because if the fall is so severe that no one can believe in and of themselves and God choose to save only some, then of course some will never receive the blessing of saving faith.

Election: The Doctrine of Reprobation

- Jesus thanks the Father for hiding the knowledge of salvation from some and revealing it to others.

At that time Jesus declared, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. Matthew 11:25 – 26)

Election: The Doctrine of Reprobation

- There are several explicit passages that describe reprobation.

For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills. You will say to me then, "Why does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?" But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, "Why have you made me like this?" Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use? (Romans 9:17 – 21)

Election: The Doctrine of Reprobation

So too at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace. But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace. What then? Israel failed to obtain what it was seeking. The elect obtained it, but the rest were hardened, as it is written, "God gave them a spirit of stupor, eyes that would not see and ears that would not hear, down to this very day." (Romans 11:5 - 8)

For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ. (Jude 4)

Election: The Doctrine of Reprobation

So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone," and "A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense. "They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. (1 Peter 2:7 – 9)

Election: The Doctrine of Reprobation

- God shows forth his wrath, power and his glory in reprobation.

What if God, desiring to **show his wrath** and to **make known his power**, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, in order to make known the **riches of his glory** for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory- (Romans 9:22 -23)

- Therefore, Scripture says the cause of election is God but the cause of reprobation lies with the sinner.
- The ground of election is God's mercy but the ground of reprobation is God's justice.