

# *The Fruits of Calvinism*

Zeke Flores

**Intro:** *Upon the publication of his book “The Institutes of the Christian Religion,” John Calvin kindled a firestorm of deception.*

- A. The reformation of which he was part of (Protestantism) was an extreme knee-jerk reaction to the errors of Catholicism.
  - 1. Unfortunately, most reformers went too far and Calvin provided just the fuel they needed although some of the things he advocated were too extreme even for some early reformers.
- B. Calvin’s system filled a void for some seeking freedom from repressive and oppressive religion.
  - 1. Instead, they found liberty for licentiousness as Calvin taught that God’s sovereignty would overlook sinful lifestyles as long as He had predestined them to salvation.
  - 2. For those who disagreed with him, Calvin could become a most ardent and ruthless foe. He was key in calling for the execution of Servetus, who advocated doctrines contrary to Calvin’s, thus making him like the Catholic leaders whom he stood against.
- C. Calvinism, aside from the various observations we’ve already made, has its tentacles extended into nearly every sect of “Christian” religion today, including the Lord’s church.
  - 1. Once planted, it springs forth and bears fruit of various kinds, all of them spiritually deadly.
  - 2. Let’s notice some.

## **I. It Impeaches The Nature of God**

- A. The basis for all of Calvinism is the sovereignty of God.
  - 1. Calvin didn’t discover the sovereignty of God, he isolated it as an idea to the exclusion of other Biblical truths.
- B. Every point of TULIP flows from this central idea.
  - 1. “These other doctrines are an expression of this one central theme. Thus if God is absolutely sovereign -- the Alpha and Omega -- then it follows that salvation depends entirely on him and not on man.” (Edwin H. Palmer, *The Five Points of Calvinism*, p. 74)
  - 2. “God from all eternity did by the most wise and holy counsel of his own will, freely and unchangeably ordain whatsoever comes to pass.” (Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter III)
  - 3. They mean that *God foreordained sin itself!*
    - a. “God desired for man to fall into sin. I am not accusing God of sinning. I’m suggesting that God created sin.” (R.C. Sproul, *Almighty Over All*)
    - b. How does this impeach the nature of God?
- C. It makes Him the author of what He says He abhors.
  - 1. When God created the world and man, the Bible says it was “very good.” Sin is anything but good and God’s book says that God hates it very much!
  - 2. **Hab 1:13; Psalm 5:4-5, 11:5, 7; James 1:13**
  - 3. In fact, God calls us to holiness - **1 Pet 1:15**
    - a. Why would He do so if He ordained that man should sin?
    - b. Calvinism is an attack on the holiness of God!

- D. It makes God an unfeeling, ruthless dictator.
  1. Not once in Calvin's book does he expound on the love of God. Why should he when he believes that God has already wound up the clock and can just sit back while "preordained" people march into hell through no choice of their own?
  2. Bible speaks of the immeasurable love of God and what he did to make eternal life possible for sinners.
    - a. **John 3:16-17; Rom 5:6-8**
    - b. If people do go to hell, it won't be because God's love didn't try to keep them from doing so.

## II. It Initiates Confusion

- A. The doctrines of Calvinism are so easily refuted by the Bible, yet people continue to believe them thinking that perhaps God said one thing through one inspired man and another thing through someone else.
  1. **Rom 3:3-4; 1 Cor 14:33**
- B. The Bible is amazingly consistent in spite of what some men teach.
  1. From the beginning to the end of the Book, the message is: God loves, man rebels, God sends love (Jesus), man can accept or reject, God loves (by honoring man's decision).
  2. Calvinism says: God decided ... That's it!
- C. Calvinism invalidates the teaching of God concerning:
  1. The virtue of children (lost little sinners)
  2. The Great Commission (Plan of salvation)
  3. The Atonement for all
  4. Man's free will and works by faith (irresistible grace)
  5. Man's responsibility to live righteously
  6. On & on...
- D. I think I'd rather believe God than John Calvin
  1. **1 Thess 2:13; 1 John 5:10-11; Heb 6:16-19**
  2. **Gal 1:6-9**

## III. It Instigates Sinfulness

- A. God will not force anyone into a relationship with Him. He'll present His offer and let man make up his own mind.
  1. If that means rejection of Him, so be it.
    - a. **2 Thess 2:7-12** (All false religion?)
    - b. **Rom 1:28-32**
- B. Calvin's erroneous assumptions (esp. Unconditional Election, Irresistible Grace, Perseverance of the Saints) invalidate the reasonable commands of God.
  1. **Is 1:18-20; Rom 12:1-2; 1 Pet 1:17, 2 Pet 3:11**
  2. Calvin's teaching prompts rebelliousness since it says that once saved, a man can never be lost.

**Conc: *Learn the lessons that Calvinism teaches!***

- A. Not in order to believe and practice it, but to realize when your own behavior might betray a tendency toward it.
  - 1. God's nature requires holiness - BE HOLY!
  - 2. Don't be confused - STUDY YOUR BIBLE!
  - 3. Don't be prone to sin - BE DILIGENT!
- B. INV