

Calvinism- John Calvin (1509-1564) founded and developed his systematic system of soteriology (salvation) which is known as Calvinism. Its 5 main tenants is summed up by the acronym: TULIP.

T- Total Depravity of Man: The unregenerate (unsaved) man is dead in his sins (Romans 5:12). Without the power of the Holy Spirit, the natural man is blind and deaf to the message of the gospel (Exodus 7:13-14; Matthew 7:18; Mark 4:11f). Man without a knowledge of God will never come to this knowledge without God making man alive through Christ (Ephesians 2:1-5). Calvin teaches that man does not have a freewill since he cannot help but sin. Thus, he teaches that man has the total inability of making the choice to accept God's gift of salvation. However, God clearly tells us that man does have a choice. (John 3:16; Acts 16:31; Rom. 10:13)

U- Unconditional Election: Unconditional Election is the tenant which states that God chose those whom he was pleased to bring to a knowledge of himself, not based upon any merit shown by the object of his grace and not based upon his looking forward to discover who would "accept" the offer of the gospel. They believe that God has elected some, based solely upon the counsel of his own will, some for glory and others for damnation. They take Romans 9-11 and Ephesians 1:1-7 out of context. However, the Bible clearly tells us that it is God's will for all men to be saved (II Peter 3:9; Gal. 4:4-5; II Cor. 6:2).

L- Limited Atonement: This tenant teaches that Christ has only died for the elect and not for the whole world. John Calvin and Calvinists teach and believe that Christ only died for a select few as they do not understand the word world referring to the entire human race (John 1:29; John 3:15-16). However, the Bible tells us that Christ died for the sins of the whole world (John 3:15-17; I John 2:1-2). Regarding I John 2:1-2, John MacArthur, a Calvinist, writes "The apostle's words **and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world** have been understood by many to refer to an unlimited atonement, by which Christ provides a potential salvation for all people without exception. Logically, such an interpretation strips the work of Christ on the cross of any actual atonement for anyone specifically, and it provides only a potential satisfaction for God's wrath. To be faithful to the truth revealed in Scripture, **the whole world** must be comprehended as a generic expression that refers to humanity throughout the earth, but not necessarily to every individual." Such an interpretation is not only unbiblical but is marred with faulty logic and eisegesis (reading into Scripture).

I- Irresistible Grace: This is the teaching that those who are part of God's elect will be saved as they will not be able to resist the grace of God (John 6:44; Acts 16:14; Rom. 3:10-12; Rom. 8:7). This is also known as God's effectual call which diminishes man's choice and the need of man's faith. Man is saved by grace but still has a choice (Eph. 2:8-9; Tit. 2:11; John 5:24; II Thes. 2:14).

P- Perseverance of the Saints- Once a person is genuinely saved, he will always be saved. A true believer will not lose his salvation (John 10:27-29; Hebrews 6:4-6).

While some of these tenants are biblical, some are unbiblical and the ones that are biblical John Calvin tends to re-define in his own way rather than what is scriptural. In his effort to systematize a wonderful doctrine such as salvation and explain how God's sovereignty and man's freewill works together, he came up with a faulty man-made system rather than one that is biblical.

The New/Young Calvinists: This is a group aimed at the Millennials who are reformed and Calvinistic in the theology. They promote cultural relevancy, social drinking, missional theology, contextualization, charismatic theology, scholasticism, multi-ethnicity, and social justice. Furthermore, they promote and use worldliness both in their personal and corporate worship. The leaders of the New Calvinists movement are John Piper, Al Mohler, and Mark Driscoll. Organizations such as T4G (Together for the Gospel), The Gospel Coalition, 9 Marks, and Sovereign Grace ministries support and promote the new Calvinism.