

WCF Chapter 10, Of Effectual Calling

Chapter 9- Regenerate can choose Christ through the illumination of the Spirit.

Chapter 10- Regenerate will choose Christ through the illumination of the Spirit.

I. All those whom God hath predestinated unto life, and those only, he is pleased, in his appointed and accepted time, effectually to call, by his Word and Spirit, out of that state of sin and death in which they are by nature, to grace and salvation by Jesus Christ: enlightening their minds, spiritually and savingly, to understand the things of God, taking away their heart of stone, and giving unto them an heart of flesh; renewing their wills, and by his almighty power determining them to that which is good; and effectually drawing them to Jesus Christ; yet so as they come most freely, being made willing by his grace.

Pelagian- man able to convert apart from grace.

Semi-Pelagian/ Arminian- man able to convert with grace.

Reformed- man converted by grace.

Salvation can only be by grace alone if the recipients of God's grace are truly spiritually dead, and not simply sick.

Synergism- initial work between the Holy Spirit and man is cooperative.

Monergism- initial work between Holy Spirit and man is unilateral.

Lazarus- John 11:25.

Valley of Dry Bones- Ezekiel 37

Holy Spirit Renewal

1. True Conversion of mind, heart and will- Rom. 12:2; Luke 24:45; Deut. 30:6ff

2. No change of constituent being, per se- Titus 3:5
3. Regeneration precedes faith- 2 Cor. 4:6, Eph. 2:4-5

II. This effectual call is of God's free and special grace alone, not from any thing at all foreseen in man, who is altogether passive therein, until, being quickened and renewed by the Holy Spirit, he is thereby enabled to answer this call, and to embrace the grace offered and conveyed in it.

Tim's Excellent Adventure:

1. Testimony of Scripture- John 6, Romans 9
2. Inferior view of Justice and Compassion- Rom. 3:23; Luke 23:37ff, Rom. 9:22f
3. History: Why not same opportunity for all?
4. Extra-Biblical Influences: *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, John Calvin

III. Elect infants, dying in infancy, are regenerated and saved by Christ through the Spirit, who worketh when, and where, and how he pleaseth. So also are all other elect persons who are incapable of being outwardly called by the ministry of the Word.

1. Infant Salvation occurs- David's son, 2 Sam. 12:23
2. Regeneration by the Holy Spirit- Luke 1:15
3. Calvinism's gracious view- 1 Peter 1:3

4. Number of Elect Unknown- Gen. 7:1; cf Heb. 11:7; Josh. 2:18; Ps. 103:17; John 4:53; Acts 2:39; 16:31; 18:8; 1 Cor. 1:16; 7:14; Titus 1:6

IV. Others, not elected, although they may be called by the ministry of the Word, and may have some common operations of the Spirit, yet they never truly come to Christ, and therefore can not be saved: much less can men, not professing the Christian religion, be saved in any other way whatsoever, be they never so diligent to frame their lives according to the light of nature, and the law of that religion they do profess; and to assert and maintain that they may is without warrant of the Word of God.

Great Commission- General/ Outward Call versus Special/ Inward Call (always effectual) of the Holy Spirit

I. Those under the influence of the Word:

Temporary Faith- Sower/Soils Parable, Mat. 13:18ff

Counterfeit Faith- Heb. 6:4ff

Difficulty of Identification- Weeds Parable, Mat. 18:24ff

II. Those not under the influence of the Word:

Appearance of Godliness- 2 Tim. 3:1-5

Suppression of Truth by All- Romans 1:18ff

Exclusivity of Christianity- John 14:6, Acts 4:2; 1 Cor. 15:12ff

The best rule of sobriety is, not only in learning to follow wherever God leads, but also when he makes an end of teaching, to cease also from wishing to be wise.

-John Calvin, Institutes of the Christian Religion, Book 3:21.3