



Election (according to the \_\_\_\_\_) – those who will be saved (small minority of people) were chosen by God before the world was created and are called “the elect.” Those God did not choose for salvation (the overwhelming majority of people) are called “the non-elect” and cannot be saved.

Election (according to the \_\_\_\_\_) – before He created the world, God determined to die for the whole world, thus establishing the potential that “all” could be saved. Whosoever responds to the conviction and call of the Holy Spirit are saved (small minority of people) and are called “the elect.”

**Other than to theologians arguing the “finer points” of the Christian faith in dusty seminary libraries, why should this debate matter?**

Do people have a \_\_\_\_\_ will and can \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ to the will of God, or is everything \_\_\_\_\_ by God and human will is essentially a \_\_\_\_\_ point?

“Creatures are so governed by the secret counsel of God, that nothing happens but what He has knowingly and willingly decreed.” John Calvin, *Institutes of Christian Religion*, Book 1, Chapter 16, Paragraph 3

**1. Are disagreements among believers always unspiritual/unhealthy?**

\_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 15:36-38)

\_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ (Gal 2:11-14)

**2. Over which biblical issues can we disagree and still be orthodox followers of Christ?**

- \_\_\_\_\_ vs. \_\_\_\_\_
- Essentials: \_\_\_\_\_ doctrines that define \_\_\_\_\_ Christianity – divinity of Jesus, inerrancy of Scripture, means of salvation, etc.
- Nonessentials: \_\_\_\_\_, yet \_\_\_\_\_ issues that do not directly affect core doctrines – Eschatology, spiritual gifts, election, eternal security, etc.
- In essentials \_\_\_\_\_, in nonessentials \_\_\_\_\_, and in all things \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Is it a sin to debate the Bible?**

4. Differences sometimes \_\_\_\_\_ separate us

5. If God is all loving, He must be loving to \_\_\_\_\_

“When we say that God is sovereign in the exercise of His love, we mean that He loves whom He chooses. God does not love everybody.” Arthur Pink, Jerry Walls, “What’s wrong with Calvinism?,” Part 1, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Daomzm3nylg>

“Moreover, the Father does not love every human being in the same way. Yes, common grace is bestowed on all men indiscriminately, giving them food and other benefits. But God’s goodness does not demand that He save everyone. His saving grace is not shown to every man and woman.”

Degrees of Punishment, Jan 9, 2007, Ligonier Ministries

<https://learn.ligonier.org/devotionals/degrees-punishment?srsltid=AfmBOorvPd2TvjpoAVNeR08k2ozqtzGRi3opLaaMeqTqnqXbc0oHdz3J>

#### Calvinist Conundrum:

- To love someone is to desire the very \_\_\_\_\_ for them
- The very best for all people is to be in a \_\_\_\_\_ with God
- If God determines who will be saved, He could have determined \_\_\_\_\_ to be saved
- God truly loves \_\_\_\_\_ people
- Therefore, all will be \_\_\_\_\_

“If God had elected to save everyone without exception, all would certainly be saved. But God never had the slightest intention of saving everyone. That is what the doctrine of election means in the first place: God chooses some but not all.” R. K. McGregor Wright, Jerry Walls, *Why I Am Not A Calvinist, Part 1* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Daomzm3nylg>

“But I am not ignorant that God may not have chosen my sons for His sons. And, though I think I would give my life for their salvation, if they should be lost to me, I would not rail against the Almighty. He is God. I am but a man. The potter has absolute rights over the clay. Mine is to bow before His unimpeachable character and believe the Judge of all the earth has ever and always will do right.” John Piper, “How Does A Sovereign God Love?,” <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/how-does-a-sovereign-god-love>

“What if one of my kids is non-elect? That is not your department. ... It is of absolutely no benefit for me to twiddle my thumbs and worry whether or not my children are elect. That is not what I am called to – not at all. I can’t figure that out. Don’t tie yourself up in knots about that. ... Don’t ask questions you can’t answer. Preach the Gospel. ... What God decreed will come to pass.” Voddie Baucham, “Election and Predestination,” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A9LQaXgw9-8>, “Why Preach The Gospel If God Has Already Determined Who Will Be Saved?,” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lSWiDwr-gml>

6. God so loves \_\_\_\_\_ that He wants \_\_\_\_\_ to be saved and has made it  
\_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_ can be \_\_\_\_\_

“Our case against Calvinism is that ... it does not \_\_\_\_\_ portray the Holy One who is ‘compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love (Ps 103:8), the God for whom love is not merely an option or sovereign choice, but who is such that His eternal nature is love (1 Jn 4:8).”

Jerry Walls, *Why I Am Not A Calvinist*, pp. 219-220