

# Unconditional Election

## Preliminary Cautions

1. This is a hard doctrine. It assaults our pride. There is in all of us a tenacious insistence on proving we are somehow savable.
2. God gives us this doctrine for our comfort, and not for speculating about “who’s in and who’s out”.
3. Election should bring us great comfort, knowing that we are the work of God from eternity to eternity. He is the author of our salvation(Heb.12:2) and He will finish the work He began (Phil.1:6)
4. Some folks say, “ We just can’t understand all this, so why bother. Isn’t it a mystery?” There is mystery here- why God chooses some and not others- but it is not mysterious that He in fact does. We can’t call a mystery what the bible clearly teaches. If the Bible teaches unconditional election, we are bound to believe it whether or not we like it.
5. Some folks wrestle with this doctrine for years. We must be patient with each other, as God is with us.

## **A. Terms**

Everyone must have some doctrine of election because the bible uses the words elect, choose, foreknowledge, predestine, etc.

What is the issue?

Does God elect sinners to salvation based on a condition- knowing ahead of time that they will of their own free will choose Him?

or

Does God elect sinners unconditionally- based on nothing foreseen in them or that they will do?

Put another way, does God choose us or do we choose Him?

## **B. If Total Depravity, then Election**

If man is truly dead in sin, and unable and unwilling to move toward God, it logically follows that he could never be saved unless God moves first. In Reformed theology we call this REGENERATION -----> precedes ---> FAITH

We are born again in order that we might believe.

John 3:3 Unless one is born again, he cannot see Kingdom of God

John 1:13 Born not of blood, will of flesh or man, but of God

Acts 16:14 The Lord opened Lydia’s heart to respond to Paul

Dt.29:4 The Lord has not given you a heart to know, eyes to see, ears to hear

Dt.7:6-8 God chose you to be His people because He loved you and kept His promise

1 Peter 1:3 God caused us to be born again to a living hope

The OT gives a picture of this in Ez.37:4-5—(dry bones) I will cause the Spirit to enter you so you may come to life

The NT picture is the raising of Lazarus in John 11:43-44—Lazarus, come forth!

God must awaken us, although we may feel like we’re in control of the process.

### **C. Only God can reverse our fallen state:**

- **If we are dead, he must bring us to life.**

Col.2:13 When you were dead, He made you alive together with Him

Eph.2:4-6 But God..., when we were dead, made us alive, raised us up..., seated us with Him in the heavenly places

1 Cor.2:14 A natural man does not accept things of God's spirit, foolishness, cannot understand, because spiritually appraised

- **If we are blind, He must open our eyes.**

Gal.1:15-16 He set me apart, called me, revealed His Son in me

- **If we are slaves to Satan and sin, He must set us free.**

2 Cor.4:4 Every one who sins is a slave to sin

Jn.8:34 God of this world has blinded minds of unbelievers

2 Tim.2:25 Perhaps God may grant repentance to those held captive by the devil

Col.1:13f He delivered us from the domain of darkness

- **A new creation is the result of something being brought into existence by a power outside of itself.**

2 Cor.5:17 If any man is in Christ, he is a new creature

James 1:18 He brought us forth, first fruits

Rom. 4:17 God ...gives life to the dead

- **Repentance and faith are gifts given by His grace.**

Eph.2:8-9 By grace you are saved through faith, the gift of God

Acts 5:31 Jesus to grant repentance to Israel & forgiveness of sins

Acts 11:18 God has granted to the Gentiles repentance to life

### **D. God regenerates based on His sovereign choice:**

Mt.11:25-27 God hid things from the wise, intelligent & revealed them to babes

John 6:44,65 No one can come to Jesus unless the Father draws him, unless the Father grants it

John 15:16 Jesus said, you did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit and that your fruit should remain

1 John 4:19 We love, because He first loved us

Acts 13:48 As many as had been appointed to eternal life believed

2 Thess.2:13-17 God has chosen you from the beginning, He called you

2 Tim.1:9 God called us according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity

Titus 3:5 He saved us, according to His mercy

1 Cor.1:27 God has chosen foolish, weak things of the world to shame wise, strong

John 5:21 The Son gives life to whom He wishes

Romans 9:1-18 It does not depend on man who wills or runs, but on god who has mercy. He has mercy on whom He desires, He hardens whom He desires.

### **E. Election serves the glory of God**

Eph.1:1-11 "According to the kind intention of His will" (5)

"To the praise of the glory of His grace" (6)

"Having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will." (11)