



Reformation Theology
 a study of
 The 5 Solas of the Reformation
 &
 The 5 Points of Calvinism
 September 3, 2017
Irresistible Grace

Course Overview

500th Anniversary of the Reformation

5 Solas of the Reformation- Objections will mostly deal with where the reformers differed from the Roman Catholic Church.

5 Points of Calvinism- Objections come from Arminian theology and broader culture.

Irresistible Grace

- Goals:
 - Define the doctrine
 - Definition
 - Implications
 - Misunderstandings
 - Scriptural Support (Exegetical Basis)
 - Theological basis
 - Answer objections
 - Application to Christian life (So What?)

Irresistible Grace Defined

Definition:

God's special redemptive grace secures the salvation of those who receive it.

1. Concerns God's special redemptive grace, not his common grace.
2. This special grace always accomplishes its purposes
3. God's special grace secures salvation as a whole.

Implications

1. When God determines to save someone, that person will most surely be saved.
2. There is both an "external call" and an "internal call" to salvation in Christ.
 - a. External call: the outward invitation to trust in Jesus.
 - b. Internal call: the inward work of the Holy Spirit.
3. Divine grace precedes the human response to the gospel.
4. Human freedom is compatible with comprehensive divine sovereignty.

Misunderstandings

1. The Holy Spirit coerces people into accepting Jesus as Savior and Lord.
2. Divine grace cannot be resisted or rejected by human beings.
3. We are totally passive in salvation.

Scriptural Support

Deuteronomy 30:6

And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.

Ezekiel 36:26-27 (c.f. 37:1-14)

²⁶ And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

John 6:22-65 (esp 37, 44-45)

³⁷ All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.

⁴⁴ No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. John ⁴⁵ It is written in the Prophets, 'And they will all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me—

Romans 8:28-30

²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

Summary Argument/Theological basis

1. If God is sovereign over the ends, he must also be sovereign over the means.
 - a. God is sovereign over the ends (doctrine of providence)
 - b. Therefore, God must also be sovereign over the means.
 - c. Therefore, God must have the power to ensure that his purposes do not fail.

2. God's purpose is that his chosen people will be saved.
3. Therefore, God has the power to ensure that his chosen people will be saved.
4. Therefore, God has the power to ensure that his chosen people will both hear the gospel (external call) and accept the gospel (internal call).

Objections

1. God has chosen to give us free will and not to subvert or override it.
2. If the internal call is efficacious, the external call must be superfluous.
3. Acts 7:51 shows that people can resist the work of the Holy Spirit.
4. Jesus taught that not everyone who is called will be saved (Matt 22:1-14).

Application

- IG exalts the sovereignty of God in all things.
- IG reassures us that God's redemptive purposes never fail.
- IG reinforces the gospel truth that we are saved by grace from start to finish.
- IG implies that genuine saving faith in Christ will be evidenced by a transformed life.

Application

- IG gives us encouragement that our evangelism will bear fruit.
- IG means that it makes good sense to pray for the salvation of unbelievers by name.
- IG reinforces the doctrines of assurance and perseverance.
