







Unconditional Election

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

Unconditional Election Defined

Definition:

God's decision to save someone does not ultimately depend on anything in that person.

1. Concerned with God's choice, not ours.
2. Concerned with God's choice for salvation, not how someone will serve in the church.
3. Concerned with God's choice of individuals as opposed to groups.
4. States that God's choice of individuals for salvation does not depend on anything in those individuals.

Unconditional Election Defined

Westminster Confession 3.8

The doctrine of this high mystery of predestination is to be handled with special prudence and care, that men, attending the will of God revealed in his Word, and yielding obedience thereunto, may, from the certainty of their effectual vocation, be assured of their eternal election. So shall this doctrine afford matter of praise, reverence, and admiration of God; and of humility, diligence, and abundant consolation to all that sincerely obey the gospel.

Implications

- 1. God's election is not based on foreseen faith, repentance, perseverance or good works.
- 2. We choose God because God first chose us -or- we believe because we were chosen.
- 3. Even faith and repentance are free gifts of God; works of supernatural grace in us.
 - a) Regeneration (being "born again") must precede conversion.
 - b) We cannot take any credit for any part of our salvation.

Implications

- 4. God also ultimately determines that some sinners will not be saved.
 - a) We should acknowledge divine reprobation as well as divine election.

Misunderstandings

- 1. God chooses arbitrarily or capriciously who gets saved and who doesn't.
- 2. Salvation isn't conditional on anything, including faith, repentance, or good works.
- 3. God forces people to be saved (or damned) regardless of what they actually want.

Scriptural Support

Deuteronomy 7:6-8

6 "For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. 7 It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, 8 but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

John 10:24-29

²⁴ So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." ²⁵ Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, ²⁶ but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. ²⁷ My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.

Acts 11:18

¹⁸ When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, "Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life."

Acts 13:48

⁴⁸ And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.

Romans 9:1-24

Summary Argument/Theological basis

1. Salvation is by grace alone (Sola Gratia).
2. Therefore, there can be no ground for boasting in our salvation. (1 Cor 1:28-29)
3. Therefore, even our faith and repentance must be free gifts of God.
4. Therefore, whether or not we are saved must depend ultimately on God alone.

Objections

- Objection 1: God doesn't show partiality (Romans 2:11) He is no respecter of persons.
- Objection 2: If God ultimately decides who is saved, evangelism is a waste of time.
- Objection 3: It is unjust for God to condemn people to hell before they are even born.
- Objection 4: John 3:16 clearly teaches that God loves the world and wants all to be saved.

Objections

Objection 5: John 3:16 clearly teaches that anyone who wants eternal life can have it.

Objection 6: 1 Timothy 2:4 and 2 Peter 3:9 clearly stat that God wants everyone to be saved.

Objection 7: If our election ultimately depends only on God’s secret will, we can never have assurance of our salvation.

Application

- UE exalts the sovereignty of God in all things.
- UE reassures us that God’s redemptive purposes never fail.
- UE reinforces the gospel truth that we are saved by grace from start to finish.
- UE reassures us that our salvation ultimately depends on God’s love for us, not on our love for God.
- UE encourages us to give thanks for God for everything—even for our very faith in him.

Application

- UE keeps us humble.
- UE gives us encouragement that our evangelism will bear fruit (cf. Acts 18:9-10).
- UE provides a firm foundation for the doctrines of assurance and perseverance.
- UE invites reverent awe and worship as we acknowledge the inscrutability of God’s decrees.
