

# The Doctrines of Grace

## 3. Unconditional Election



**Election = Choice**

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**Why are some people saved,  
and others not?**

**Why do some trust the Lord  
Jesus, and others don't?**

# **The Arminians' 'Remonstrance' (formal objection) against the teachings of the Belgic Confession (1566)**

## **Two principles believed by the Arminians:**

- 1. Divine sovereignty is incompatible with human freedom (and therefore, human responsibility)**
- 2. Ability limits obligation – no one can be held accountable for what he is incapable of doing**

**The Arminians believed that God's choice of people is determined by their choice of him. I.O.W., his choice (election) of them is conditional upon their choice of him.**

**This is a 'Conditional Election'**

**When a person fulfils the condition, then God chooses him/her.**

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**Or**

**"He chose us because we first chose him."**

**Is the Arminian idea of election taught in the Bible?**

**For example, Romans 8:29:**

**“For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.”**

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**Or 1Peter 1:12:**

**“... who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance.”**



**There a big problem with the Arminian idea...**

**It doesn't work! There is a fatal weakness.**

**Last week, we saw that God has given humanity free will, and that we exercise our free will in accord with our nature.**

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**But what does the Bible tell us about our human nature?**

**“The LORD smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: ‘Never again will I curse the ground because of man, even though every inclination of his heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done.’”**

**Genesis 8:1**



**Free to go anywhere... inside her cage!**

## **Deuteronomy 7:7-8 –**

**The LORD did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. But it was because the LORD loved you and kept the oath he swore to your forefathers that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt.**

## **Romans 9:11-13 –**

**Yet, before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad — in order that God’s purpose in election might stand: not by works but by him who calls — she was told, “The older will serve the younger.” Just as it is written: “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.”**

## **Romans 9:14-16 –**

**What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! For he says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.” It does not, therefore, depend on man’s desire or effort, but on God’s mercy.**

**That is divine, unconditional election!**

**What about God's 'foreknowledge'?**

**What did God 'foreknow' in this verse:**

**“For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.”**

**- Romans 8:29**



**In the Bible, when someone ‘knows’ someone else, it refers to intimate, personal knowledge.**

**Adam ‘knew’ his wife, Eve.**

**Amos 3:2 - “You only have I chosen [literally, ‘known’] of all the families of the earth; therefore I will punish you for all your sins.”**

**Jesus in Matthew 7:22-23 – “Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’”**

**God's election...**

**Personal love before time began.**

**Can I know that I am chosen?**

