

Race and Sovereign Grace

Based on Chapter 9 of Bloodlines by John Piper and Collected Writings of John Murray, *The Atonement and Free Offer of the Gospel*

Holy Trinity Sunday School 6/19/2016

TULIP (Definitions from the Westminster Confession of Faith)

Total Depravity: Man, by his fall into a state of sin, hath wholly lost all ability of will to any spiritual good accompanying salvation: so as, a natural man, being altogether averse from that good, and dead in sin, is not able, by his own strength, to convert himself, or to prepare himself thereunto. (WCF IX.3)

Unconditional Election: By the decree of God, for the manifestation of his glory, some men and angels are predestinated unto everlasting life; and others foreordained to everlasting death. (WCF III.3)

Limited Atonement (Or Particular Redemption): The Lord Jesus, by his perfect obedience, and sacrifice of himself, which he, through the eternal Spirit, once offered up unto God, hath fully satisfied the justice of his Father; and purchased, not only reconciliation, but an everlasting inheritance in the kingdom of heaven, for all those whom the Father hath given unto him. (WCF VIII.5)

Irresistible Grace: All those whom God hath predestined unto life, and those only, He is pleased, in His appointed time, effectually to call, by His Word and Spirit, out of that state of sin and death, in which they are by nature to grace and salvation, by Jesus Christ... (WCF X.1)

Perseverance of the Saints: They, whom God hath accepted in His Beloved, effectually called, and sanctified by His Spirit, can neither totally, nor finally, fall away from the state of grace: but shall certainly persevere therein to the end, and be eternally saved. (WCF 17:1)

Total Depravity and Racism

1. Explanation: A Matter of _____.

2. Scriptural Support

Romans 8:7-8 *For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*

Romans 3:10-11 *as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God.*

Ephesians 2:1-3 *And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.*

1 Corinthians 2:14 *The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.*

3. Relevance to Racism:

a. *Image of God* proclaimed without understanding total depravity could fuel _____

b. The Ethnic Diversity of _____

Romans 2:9 *There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek,*

c. *Two results:*

Unconditional Election

Doctrine: *God chooses his people before the foundation of the world apart from any conditions in them. It is unconditional.* (p 142)

1. Scriptural Support

John 15:16 *You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.*

Ephesians 1:4, 5, 11 *even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will... In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will,*

Acts 13:48 *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.*

Also 1 Thess 1:4; 2 Thess 2:13; 2 Tim 1:9; Rev 13:8; 17:8;

2. Objection: "...Then God is Unfair"

Romans 9:14-16 *What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God's part? By no means! For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy.*

a. *The question is not "why didn't he love all? The profound mystery is _____*

3. Implications

- a. He does not choose people on the basis of skin color or any other ethnic distinctive
- b. Ethnocentrism is cut off at its root... pride.

God's Purchase of His People and Racial Harmony in the Church

1. John 10 The Good Shepherd

- a. John 10:10-11 *I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.*
- b. Characteristics of the Sheep
 - i. Sheep are _____ (John 10:14-15)
 - ii. Sheep _____ (John 10:27)
 - iii. Sheep _____ (John 10:28)
 - iv. Sheep _____ (John 10:29)
 - v. Some Sheep do not yet believe, but certainly will _____ (John 10:16)
- c. The Purpose of his coming: *that they might have life and have it abundantly.*
- d. The Means of that Purpose: *The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep*

Particular redemption affirms that Jesus does not merely create potential by dying, but that he _____
- e. The Exclusiveness of his purpose and means: *you do not believe because you are not among my sheep.* (John 10:26)

2. Other Scriptural Support

Acts 20:28 Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,

John 11:52 and [die] not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad.

Hebrews 10:14 For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

Romans 8:32-33 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect?"

3. Objection: But What About Other Verses...??

Particular redemption does not limit the _____ . (p 138)

4. **Two Critical Implications:**

a. The Great Leveler

b. The Costly Design

Revelation 5:9 *And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed [people] for God from every tribe and language and people and nation,*

i. A close look at the text:

ii. Four Conclusions

1. God intends to have a people from a _____

2. God intends for them to be in _____

3. God purchased this at _____

4. The diversity and harmony was pursued by Christ _____

iii. Implication for us: _____

Questions: What might it cost? What has it cost you?

See *Bloodlines* page 261 at <http://document.desiringgod.org/bloodlines-en.pdf?1446645978>