

Finding Our Identity in YHVH's Word

How to study Scripture and History

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Today, we will look at the Five Points of TULIP (aka Calvinistic Doctrine)

Why is it important to understand this doctrine? Simply stated, this doctrine impacts the way protestants and evangelicals look at the Bible; how they study and understand what the Scriptures are saying. This is imperative so that our faith is based upon Scripture and not upon man's tradition.

Hermeneutics is the rules of interpreting Scripture. We are going to be using simple hermeneutical steps which will help us determine what Scripture is saying regarding a particular topic or issue.

Five doctrines of TULIP:

1. **(T) Total Depravity** = means that individuals do not have the ability to respond to God until God regenerates and gives the gift of faith.

TaNaKh teaches that man is corrupted and fallen. He has the propensity or inclination to sin, physical death, his free will to respond to YHVH is retained.

2. **(U) Unconditional Election = God chooses an individual regardless of their faith – they have no choice**

3. **(L) Limited Atonement** = Christ did not die for all mankind, only the Elect! Calvin stated, "God arranges all things by his sovereign council in such a way that individuals are born who are doomed from the womb to certain death and are to glorify him by their destruction". Jesus died for ONLY the Elect on the Cross. John Wesley was repulsed by Calvin's doctrine of Election, John Wesley said "this picture of God is worse than the Devil".

TaNaKh teaches = 1Jn 2:2 He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the *sins of the whole world*.

4. **(I) Irresistible Grace** = The god unilaterally awakens the dead soul and infuses faith/love (Manichaeism grace belief)

TaNaKh teaches = That God invites *all* humans equally to believe in Christ and seek divine help to live godly.

5. **(P) Predestination** = God elects without any regard to human choices! (determinism) You cannot say, "God has a plan for you or God loves you" because you don't know. Everything is predetermined, all people are predetermined. If you are part of the Elect you are going to heaven. And if you are not of the Elect, you are going to hell. It is not based on faith, or repentance your salvation is God's choice only. You have no part!

TaNaKh teaches = God elects is based on His foreknowledge of human choices (self-determination)

HOMEWORK: *objective: what Scriptures would you use to counter Calvinist teaching (TULIP)?*

Let us focus on the Scriptural absolutes of YHVH

What are some characteristics of YHVH that are absolute? *Without understanding these, we cannot truly understand Scripture.*

Can you show Scriptures (and their context) that show the following are absolutes?

- He is holy & requires that we be holy
- Cares for mankind
- Wants all to be saved
- YHVH requires obedience
- Do not add to nor subtract from His Word
- He keeps His word – He never changes
- Please list other absolutes

TULIP doctrines espouse the following: (*Homework: find Scriptural references which refute these doctrines*)

1. **(T) Total Depravity** = means that man does not have the ability to respond to God -- until God regenerates and gives the gift of faith. Man has the “absolute inability” to participate because of his condition. When you were born, you have an automatic hatred of God. You can’t turn from your sins because you can only commit sin. You are completely unable to stop rebelling against God! Consequently, the person believes that they are unable to truly confess (& repent from) their sins! Therefore, why confess or repent.

TaNaKh teaches that man is born with the propensity or inclination to sin. He is corrupted and fallen, has physical death, and his free will to respond to YHVH is retained.

Since we have control of our actions, YHVH holds us accountable for our own actions -- we are blame-worthy. YHVH have given us the ability to love and to choose.

Let us turn to the Scripture as our authority:

Context vs. Proof-Texting (theology is built upon one verse – not on context)

Gen 2:17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

In 8:34 Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.

Gen 6:5 The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Rom 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.

Rom 3:11,12 ¹¹no one understands; no one seeks for God. ¹²All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.”

Palm 14:3-4 ³They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one. ⁴Have they no knowledge, all the evildoers who eat up my people as they eat bread and do not call upon the LORD?

Isa 64:6 We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

Rom 5:12 Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—

Ezek 18:23 Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked, declares the Lord GOD, and not rather that he should turn from his way and live?

Acts 17:30 “The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent”

Your homework is to add Scriptures to each one of the TULIP doctrines listed earlier.