



Questionnaire

What Do You Know About ‘Calvinism’ & ‘Arminianism’?

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by
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**Mark the correct answers
(more than one in each question may be possible):**

1. 'Calvinism' comes from John Calvin who invented the 5 points of 'Calvinism'.

True False

2. Most 'Calvinists' believe in a predestination to Hell.

True False

3. Calvinism denies the preaching of the gospel is to all, but rather it is for the 'elect'.

True False

4. Arminianism teaches God's election is based on God's foreknowledge of man's ability to operate in free will and bring about repentance.

True false

5. Arminianism teaches man's will is not enslaved to his sinful nature. Man is not so completely corrupted by sin that he cannot respond to the gospel.

True False

6. The 'TULIP' acronym Total Depravity, Unconditional Election, Limited atonement, Irresistible grace, Perseverance of the saints was invented.

(A) by Calvin (B) at the Synod of Dordt in 1618-19 (B) in the 19th.C by Calvinists (C) in the 20thC by Calvinists

7. Charles Spurgeon taught the 5 points of 'TULIP'

True False

8. In the Scriptures does God choose man or does man choose God?
(A) God always chooses man (B) Man chooses God (C) Both God chooses man and man chooses God

9. In the Scriptures does unsaved man have any power within himself to choose Christ?

(A) He is unable to choose Christ at all in and of himself (B) He has some ability or freedom to choose Christ (C) He can of his own free will choose Christ

10. Predestination is (A) a special choosing of man by God (B) a prior decree of God (C) a prior decree for service (D) only applies to Israel and not the New Testament.

11. God predestinates, foreordains people.

(A) Before they are born (B) According to how they will choose in their free will (C) Only when they have chosen Christ

12. Israel was the elect nation chosen unconditionally out of all other nations.

True False

13. Election is God choosing man based on his free will to choose Christ.

True False

14. Those who are not the 'elect' are (A) not chosen because they did not believe (B) are already judged for their sins (C) receive perfect justice

15. 'Calvinists' do not believe that the blood of Jesus was sufficient to save the whole world

True False

16. The doctrine of 'Free Will' is the ability of man within himself to choose, or to not choose Christ for salvation, and this without any forces or any influences.

True False

17. 'Free Agency' was a term used to denote that man has the ability to choose but that which is according to his nature.

True False

18. Charles Spurgeon taught and believed in 'free will' for salvation

True False

19. The '*whosoever believes*' in John 3:16 refers to anyone who chooses Christ of their own free will.

True False

20. 2Peter 3:9 '*The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish...*'

This verse states that God desires every person to be saved.

True False

21. Those who never hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ (example - the lost tribes of Amazonian Indians over thousands of years) can still be saved

(A) By the 'light' they have been given (Roman ch.1) (B) By them believing in God the creator (C) By their deeds (D) Only by receiving Christ as Saviour

22. The Synod of Dordt was convened in 1618 to resolve the problem of 'Calvinism'

True False

23. The Arminians at the above Synod put forth five points of doctrine

True False

24. The five points at the synod of Dordt were the five points of the acronym 'TULIP'

True False

25. The King James Bible translators were mostly 'Calvinists'

True False

26. The early Confessions of faith and creeds to which many of our denominations adhered to (such as the Westminster and London Baptist Confessions) were Calvinistic Confessions.

True False

27. Charles Spurgeon (A) rejected Calvinism (B) rejected Arminianism (C) rejected hyper-Calvinism

28. Most of the historic Reformers, Puritans, hymn writers, martyrs, revivalists and famous evangelists were Calvinistic.

(A) True (B) False (C) Only some were calvinistic

29. Most of the famous 'revivals' and 'awakenings' in history were under calvinistic teaching

True False

Answers on following pages...

Answers

1. **False**

Calvin had been long dead before any ‘5 points of Calvinism’ was invented.

2. **False**

Most ‘Calvinists’ do not believe in a predestination to Hell. The most common stance is the ‘infralapsarian’ view - that God predestinates some to be saved before the foundation of the world and the rest he ‘passes over’ who are ‘*already*’ judged in their sins (John 3:18). Some receive mercy; all receive justice.

3. **False**

Historic Calvinism has strongly taught and practised that the gospel is to be given to all. We do not know who the elect are. One of the tenets of ‘hyper-Calvinism’ is the tendency to limit the gospel or its preaching. Calvinists such as Charles Spurgeon fought against this.

4. **True**

This is one of the main teachings of Arminianism which includes such ‘foreknowledge’ and ‘free will’.

5. **True**

Arminianism teaches man's will is not completely enslaved to his sinful nature and that he can choose Christ in and of himself by his ‘free will’.

6. **(C) In the 20th.C** (See the history of ‘TULIP’ in the book ‘*Calvinism & Arminianism - Out of the Maze*’ by the author)

7. **False** (See question 6)

8. **(A) God always chooses man** (Eph.1:4,5; 2Thess.2:13; Matt.20:16; 22:14; Mk.13:20; Acts 9:15; 22:14; Rom.16:13; 2Tim.2:4; Rev.17:14). No scripture teaches that unsaved man can choose Christ for salvation without the ‘quickenings’ of the Holy Spirit (Eph.2:1-5; Col.2:13).

9. **(A) He is unable to choose Christ at all in and of himself** (Jer.17:9; Rom.8:7,8; 1Cor.2:14; Eph.2:2- 5; 4:18; Col.2:13; Jn.6:44,65; Rom.3:10,11)

10. **(B) a prior decree of God.** The Greek word for ‘predestination’ is ‘*proorizo*’ (‘*pro*’ - ‘before’/‘*orizo*’ - ‘to determine, *decree beforehand*). It is found six times in the New Testament (Acts 4:28; Romans 8:29,30; 1Corinthians 2:7; Ephesians 1:5,11), and this is apart from other similar words that also teach the same.

11. **(A) Before they are born** (Eph.1:4,5,11; 2Tim.1:9; Rom.8:29,30; Acts 2:23; 4:28; 15:18; 1Pet.1:19,20; Jer.1:5).

12. **True** (Dt.7:6-8; 10:15; Is.45:4; Ps.65:4; 135:4; Amos 3:2; 1Pet.2:9)

13. **False.** Election (‘*eklégo*’) is God choosing man of his own good pleasure and ‘*before the foundation of the world*’ (Jn.5:21; Eph.1:4,5,11; 2Tim.1:9). This is not by anything within man. No scripture is found supporting the latter.

14. **(B) are ‘already’ judged for their sins and (C) receive perfect justice.** (Jn.3:18; 5:30; 16:18; Acts 24:15; Eph.2:1,5; Rom.1:18,29-32; 2:5,6; 3:19; 9:22,23; Heb.2:2; Ps.33:5; 89:14; Pr.21:3)

15. **False.** The most common position of historic ‘Calvinism’ and in many of the Confessions is that the blood of Jesus is *sufficient* for all humans to be saved; but it will in the end only be *effectually* ‘applied’ to the ‘many’ (Matt.20:28; Mk.10:45). The atonement is thus ultimately ‘limited’ in its *effectiveness*, but ‘unlimited’ in its *sufficiency* - *all* that the Father gives to the Son will come (Jn.6:37-39,44,65). The Synod of Dordt (1618- 19) stated ‘*The death of the Son of God is the only and*

most perfect sacrifice and satisfaction for sin; is of infinite worth and value, abundantly sufficient to expiate the sins of the whole world' (Canons of Dordt: Second Heading, Article 3).

16. **True.** This is a summary definition found in various Christian sources. The doctrine of this is contradicted by many scriptures (Rom.8:7,8; 1Cor.2:14; Eph.2:2-5; 4:18; Col.2:13; Jn.6:44,65; Rom.3:10,11).

17. **True.** The difference between this and 'free will' is significant. 'Free Agency' is to be distinguished from 'free will' in that free agency means we can voluntarily choose *according to our desires or our nature*. *The unsaved man has 'free agency' but not 'free will' in salvation*. He is bound by nature in a bias toward sin, irreversible unless God intervenes (Eph.2:3). Fallen man simply cannot will or seek after God's will (Rom.8:7,8; Rom.3:11; Jn.1:12,13). We are only 'free' to act *according to our nature*. Our adamic nature is 'dead in sins' (Eph.2:2-5; 4:18; Col.2:13) and is a 'slave' to sin (Rom.6:9,14; 7:1).

18. **False.** Charles Spurgeon taught and believed in 'free agency' but refuted 'free will'. (See our book '*Calvinism & Arminianism - Out of the Maze*' by the author which has many quotes).

19. **False.** This notion is often 'read' into the text. John 3:16 says *nothing* about choosing *or* predestination. It simply says *those that believe will be saved*. A Greek interlinear will show the '*whosoever believes*' as '*all the believing ones*' ('*pas o pisteuon*') - the Greek has the definite article '*o*' ('*the*'). The context of the chapter is also about believing and being born again.

20. **False.** The passage is addressed to the '*usward*' and the '*beloved*'. In verses 1-17 the word '*beloved*' and '*you*' are mentioned nine times. The rules of grammar and Greek show the '*any*' and the '*all*' cannot refer to any other pronoun but to the '*us*'. The context is also about the end of this age and the sureness of the Lord's coming for his '*beloved*'.

21. **(D) Only by receiving Christ as Saviour** (Jn.10:9; 14:16; Acts 4:12). Those who have not heard of Jesus or the Gospel are ‘*already*’ condemned for their sin (Jn.3:18).

22. **False.** The Synod of Dordt was convened in 1618 to resolve the problem of ‘Arminianism’ which rejected many of the Confessions of the day. Five points by the Arminian ‘remonstrants’ were refuted with five points by this Synod of the finest theologians of the day from various countries.

23. **True.** (See Qs.22).

24. **False.** (See Qs.6)

25. **True.** The King James Bible translators were made up of Church of England ministers and Puritans. They held to the ‘39 Articles’ of the Church of England at the time (e.g. section 17 on Predestination and Election). Myles Smith (in the third translation company and one of the revisers of the whole and the author of the ‘Translators to the Readers’) was a strong Calvinist. Others such as Lawrence Chaderton, John Reynolds, Thomas Holland, Daniel Fairclough, George Abbot, John Harma and Samuel Ward were some of the Calvinist Translators. John Richardson could be the only translator who might be considered somewhat ‘Arminian’. Added to this, the Greek texts that the KJV Bible is translated from were compiled by strong Calvinists (Stephanus 1550 and Theodore Beza 1599). The Bibles before the KJV were also compiled by Calvinists (John Wycliffe 1320-1384, William Tyndale, Myles Coverdale (Coverdale Bible 1535), John Rogers (Matthew’s Bible 1549), Bishop’s Bible, Geneva Bible, etc.)

26. **True.** (See ‘*Calvinism & Arminianism - Out of the Maze*’ by the author for more detail)

27. (B) rejected Arminianism and (C) rejected hyper-Calvinism.

Spurgeon strongly refuted hyper-Calvinism which had extreme views on predestination and election. Spurgeon was an avid proclaimer of the gospel to all and refuted the hyper-calvinistic attitude which minimised evangelism and denied the general call to all.

28. True. This included most of the Reformers, Puritans (such as Martin Luther, John Knox, John Wycliffe, Newton, Bunyan); all the martyrs (Tyndale, Latimer, Ridley); the early Missionaries and mission societies (London Mission Society; missionaries Elliot, Brainerd, Carey, Judson, Livingstone). Calvinists were also at the forefront of *The Religious Tract Society* (1799) and the *British and Foreign Bible Society* (1804). Other leading Preachers, evangelists, pastors, revivalists and commentators were Charles Spurgeon, Darby, Mueller, Bunyan, Newton, Matthew Henry, John Gill, Robert Haldane; and most of the famous Hymn writers (Newton, Cowper, Toplady, Bonar, Watts).

29. True. The greatest revivals in history have all been under calvinistic teaching and preaching (such as in the ‘Great Awakenings’ with Jonathan Edwards and George Whitefield).

If you did not score well in this questionnaire we encourage you to read the book ‘Calvinism & Arminianism - Out of the Maze’ by the author (Terry Arnold). This book is available from Christian book stores, or if unavailable can be ordered from:



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About the Author and the Ministry

Terry Arnold holds a Doctorate in Theology (Dth), a Masters degree (MABS) and several diplomas. He was founder and president of *South Pacific Bible Institute*, a Bible college training and equipping people for ministry. In addition he was the founder of Hervey Bay Bible Church in Queensland, Australia. He has for 25 years served as an elder and then pastor.

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TA Ministries is a non-denominational and non-profit faith ministry founded in 1989 when the book '*To Catholics Whom I Love*' was written by Terry Arnold. This book went through several re-prints and served as a fruitful outreach to Roman Catholics.

In 1996 the ministry became a full-time operation with the introduction of a free newsletter, later named '*Diakrisis (Australia)*'.

Diakrisis is published bi-monthly to *teach, inform* and *equip* the church of Biblical truths and to warn of false teaching. It has also been a valuable reference aid to hundreds of pastors/elders.