

Calvary Chapel

or

Calvinism?

***A MEMO FOR CALVARY CHAPEL SENIOR PASTORS AND ALL THOSE WHO TEACH THE BIBLE IN A CALVARY CHAPEL MINISTRY.**

According to Mark Driscoll, J.I. Packer, Tim Keller, Wayne Grudem, Al Mohler, C.J. Mahaney, John MacArthur Jr., R.C. Sproul Sr., Alistair Begg (and all other mainstream Calvinists):

1. Regeneration precedes and produces saving faith in Christ. Only those unconditionally elected for salvation can and will be born again. All of the elect will be regenerated.
2. God unconditionally elected to save some and not all lost sinners. Only the elect will or even can be saved. All of the elect will be saved. None of the non-elect can be saved.
3. Christ did not die for all the sins of all sinners and in fact He did not die for any of the sins of some sinners. For the elect and only the elect Christ died for their sins. That is, Christ only died savingly, redemptively or propitiously for the elect.
4. Only the elect are inwardly, effectively, efficaciously, or irresistibly called to saving faith in Christ. To the non-elect, a gospel proclamation is necessarily “waters on a ducks back” or totally ineffective.
5. All of the elect will persevere in faith and righteousness unto the end, and no one can be absolutely certain they are one of the elect until they have persevered to the end.

*For documentation see *The Five Points of Calvinism, Weighed and Found Wanting*, *The Dark Side of Calvinism-The Calvinist Caste System* (calvarychapeltheology.com) *DOCTRINE-What We Should Believe* by Driscoll and Breshears (crossway.org), and *What We Believe about The Five Points of Calvinism* (desiringgod.org). You can also consult books, articles, and websites related to all of the others Calvinists mentioned above.

According to Pastor Chuck Smith, Skip Heitzig, Bob Coy, Greg Laurie, Damien Kyle, Sandy Adams, David Guzik, Raul Reis, Joe Focht, and most CC senior pastors (as well as all other mainstream non-Reformed Evangelicals):

1. Saving faith in Christ always and immediately results in regeneration and any and all lost sinners can believe in Christ and be born again (Jn. 1: 10-13, 20: 30-31), .
2. God desires all men to be saved and has determined that all can and will be saved on condition they believe in Jesus Christ (Jn. 3: 15-18, 1 Tim. 2: 3-4, Acts 16: 27-31).
3. Christ died savingly, redemptively, or propitiously for all the sins of all sinners (1 Jn. 2:2, 2 Cor. 5: 14-15).
4. God calls all lost sinners to a saving faith in Jesus Christ through a Gospel proclamation and by believing the Gospel all lost sinners can be saved (Rom. 1: 16, 1 Cor. 15: 1-3).
5. All those who believe in Jesus Christ and are thus saved (regenerated and justified) are called to live a life to please, honor, and glorify the Lord and that such a life (although possible for and expected of the believer) is not inevitable for the believer (Rom. 12: 1-2, Eph. 4: 1-3, 2 Pet. 1: 1-10).

If a person does not believe in the five points of Calvinism, sometimes referred to as the Reformed doctrines of grace, he is not a Calvinist and his theology cannot accurately be called Reformed. All of those in the first list (Driscoll, Piper etc.) mentioned are five point Calvinists committed to teaching and promoting the Reformed doctrine of election and reprobation. If a person does not agree that (1) saving faith in Christ is before and results in regeneration, (2) all can believe so all can be saved, (3) Christ died for all the sins of all sinners, (4) all sinners are called to faith in Christ and will be saved if they believe in the gospel (5) all who are saved should and can live a godly life, but living a godly life is not inevitable for the saved, then that person is a Calvary Chapel pastor in name only. All those mentioned in the second list (Smith, Heitzig etc.) reject all five points of Calvinism as defined by Calvinists. One is not and cannot be a Calvinist if he denies the distinctives of Calvinism. One is only nominally a Calvary Chapel pastor/Bible teacher if he affirms the distinctives of Calvinism. See GRACE-God's Riches At Christ's Expense (calvarychapeltheology.com and The Word For Today Bible).