



1

Effectual Calling and Regeneration

- “Matt. 23:37 and Acts 7:51 shows that God’s calling/drawing is not always effective.”
- “Effectual calling amounts to coercion and to coerced love.”

Summary and Reflections

- “Effectual calling” and “regeneration” answer the question that arose at the end of the last module— if because of the pervasive effects of sin no one can desire things that please God—like the desire to repent of sin and follow Jesus—how does anyone ever become a Christian?
- God effectively calls, draws and regenerates by the Spirit and his word those who are dead in sin such they are imparted with spiritual life and are able to desire and rightly discern the things of God.

2

Effectual Calling and Regeneration

- While the external call of God through the Gospel precedes the internal, effective call—after all, one must be called to something—the effective call and regeneration are functionally simultaneous with one another and can really be understood as different aspects of the same phenomenon. We might combine the two concepts by talking of “directed regeneration.”
 - Both precede, at least logically, repentance and belief.
- The question that now arises is: “If people must be effectually called and regenerated in order to (inevitably) repent and believe the Gospel, what explains why certain people are called and regenerated leading to repentance and belief while others remain their sin?”

3

God’s Decree

- 3.1
 - “God hath decreed in himself, from all eternity, by the most wise and holy counsel of His own will, freely and unchangeably, all things, whatsoever comes to pass; yet so as thereby is God neither the author of sin nor hath fellowship with any therein; nor is violence offered to the will of the creature, nor yet is the liberty or contingency of second causes taken away, but rather established; in which appears His wisdom in disposing all things, and power and faithfulness in accomplishing His decree.”
 - Meticulous Predetermination (Prov. 16:33; 21:1; Amos 3:6; Isa. 46:8-11; Matt. 10:29-30; Eph. 1:11; Acts 2:22-23; 4:23-27)

4

God's Decree

- 3.3 and 3.5
 - “By the decree of God, for the manifestation of His glory, some men and angels are predestinated, or foreordained to eternal life through Jesus Christ, to the praise of His glorious grace; others being left to act in their sin to their just condemnation, to the praise of His glorious justice.”
 - “Those of mankind that are predestinated to life, God, before the foundation of the world was laid, according to His eternal and immutable purpose, and the secret counsel and good pleasure of His will, hath chosen in Christ unto everlasting glory, out of His mere free grace and love, without any other thing in the creature as a condition or cause moving Him thereunto.”
 - Unconditional Election to Salvation (Jn. 10:22-29; Acts 13:48; Eph 1:3-11; Rom. 8:29-30; 9:1-14; 1 Thess. 5:8-10; 1 Tim. 5:21; 2 Tim. 1:8-9; 2 Pet. 2:3; Jude 4)
 - “Unconditional” does not mean “arbitrary.” Just because we are not privy to the inscrutable counsel of God’s will and his gracious, eternal purposes does not mean that the elect resulted from God playing a salvific version of Russian roulette or eeny, meeny, miney moe.