

Podcast: Confessing the Faith

Episode 4: Calvinism - First Things First: Introductory Remarks; Addressing Common Misconceptions

Participants: Mike Thezier, Joe Anady, Austin Pine

Published: 11/19/2015

Q1: Joe, why a 7 part series on Calvinism?

A1a: One of our objectives is to give an answer to questions that people have about us.

- People know that we are Calvinists, and they have questions, or misconceptions, concerning what that means.
- I remained relatively quiet about Calvinism during the first few years of ECF.

A1b: To persuade others to believe these things.

- These are incredibly important truths that have a substantial impact upon the Christian life.
- The scriptures speak of these things in order to comfort the people of God.

A1c: At least 7 parts will be needed because these doctrines need to be handled with care.

- LBC 3.7: "The doctrine of the high mystery of predestination is to be handled with special prudence and care, that men attending the will of God revealed in his Word, and yielding obedience thereunto, may, from the certainty of their effectual vocation, be assured of their eternal election; so shall this doctrine afford matter of praise, reverence, and admiration of God, and of humility, diligence, and abundant consolation to all that sincerely obey the gospel." (1 Thessalonians 1:4, 5; 2 Peter 1:10; Ephesians 1:6; Romans 11:33; Romans 11:5, 6, 20; Luke 10:20)

Q2: What is Calvinism?

A2a: It is NOT an all out devotion to the teaching of John Calvin (Died May 27, 1564).

A2b: The Five Points, which are:

- A summary of the Canons of Dort (1618/19)
- A response to the five points of Remonstrant Arminianism

A2c: A good and faithful summary of what the Bible has to say about how salvation works.

Q3: Why is this an important topic?

A3a: The doctrine of salvation is obviously important

A3b: Big worldview issues at stake here - Who is God? Who is man?

A3c: Doctrine of scripture at stake

Q4: What do you think about wearing the label, "Calvinist"?

A4a: I used to try to avoid the label.

A4b: I regret that now. Labels are helpful. You

Q5: How and why did you become a Calvinist?

Joe

A5a: By reading the Bible (and learning to read it well)

A5b: Undergraduate work at Cal Baptist University

A5c: MDiv work at Moody Theological Seminary

A5d: Cut my teeth on Grudem, Erickson, Piper, Sproul

A5e: Calvinism, properly understood, takes into consideration all the scriptures have to say on this topic (John 3:16 AND John 6, 10, & 17, for example).

Mike

Austin

Q6: What are some common misconceptions that people have concerning Calvinism?

A6a: Determinism/fatalism

A6b: No human free will

A6c: No need for evangelism, missions, or prayer

A6d: God is unjust - See Romans 9:14

A6e: Devoted to the teaching of men - "I am of Paul, I am of Apollos"

Q7: What is the ultimate question that we are seeking to answer in this series?

A7: Who determines or controls salvation?