

### **The Early Church Fathers**

**The Early Church Fathers believed in the free will of man.**

- **Ignatius (AD35-107)** – Bishop of Antioch. Possibly a disciple of John the Apostle.
- **Clement of Rome (AD35-100)**
- **Justin Martyr (AD 110-165)**
- **Tatian the Syrian (110-172)**
- **Irenaeus of Lyons (AD 120-202)** – Disciple of Polycarp who was a disciple of John the Apostle.
- **Tertullian of Carthage (AD 155-240)**
- **Clement of Alexandria (AD 150-215)**
- **Origen of Alexandria (AD 184-253)**
- **Augustine of Hippo (AD 354-430)** – initiated the doctrines of what is now called Calvinism.

### **The Protestant Reformation**

A European movement within the Western Church resulting in a vast revival and renewal and also the breakup of the Western Church into two main bodies, Roman Catholic and Protestant.

The catalyst of the Reformation was, Martin Luther, a priest, monk and German professor of theology at the University of Wittenberg. The official beginning of the reformation is considered to be Oct. 31, 1517, when Luther nailed his 95 theses to the door of the All Saints Church in Wittenberg.

#### **Primary Doctrines of the Reformation**

Sola Scriptura – scripture alone

Sola Fide – faith alone

Sola Gratia – grace alone

Solus Christus – Christ alone

Soli Deo Gloria – to the glory of God alone

## **Some Influential Reformers**

Martin Luther

Philipp Melanchthon – German Lutheran reformer, the first systematic theologian of the reformation.

Huldrych Zwingli – A leader of the Reformation in Switzerland.

John Knox – A leader of the Reformation in Scotland and founder of the Presbyterian Church of Scotland.

John Calvin – A French theologian, pastor and reformer in Geneva, played a large part in the development of the theological system called Calvinism. He was strongly influenced by the traditions of Augustine.

## **The Development of Calvinism**

In 1536, John Calvin wrote the Institutes of Christian Religion. Its 80 chapters contain Calvin's systematic theology.

In 1610, the followers of Jacob Arminius wrote the Remonstrance, consisting of five statements expressing Arminius' view regarding salvation.

In 1618-19, the followers of John Calvin met in the Netherlands town of Dort. In the Synod of Dort, they wrote the Canons of Dort, five theological statements to refute the Remonstrance. The Canons of Dort became known as "Calvinism" or "the doctrines of grace." These canons were not put into the form T.U.L.I.P. until around 1905.

### **Total Depravity**

Because man is dead in sin, he is unable to respond to God with saving faith. His will is not free. Therefore, it takes much more than the conviction of the Holy Spirit to bring a sinner to Christ. It takes regeneration by which the Holy Spirit makes the sinner alive and gives him a new nature. Only then can he have saving faith.

### **Unconditional Election**

God's choice of certain individuals unto salvation before the foundation of the world rested solely in His own Sovereign will. He gives faith and repentance only to those whom He has chosen.

### **Limited Atonement (Particular Redemption)**

Christ did not die for the sins of the entire world. He only died for the sins of the elect.

### **Irresistible Grace**

God's offer of salvation to the elect cannot be rejected. His call to the elect irresistibly draws them to Christ.

### **Perseverance of the Saints**

All who are chosen by God are eternally saved. They are kept by the power of God and will persevere to the end.

## **Other Doctrines of Reformed Theology**

### **Infant Baptism**

Baptism is to the New Covenant as circumcision was to the Old Covenant. The child of every believer should be baptized to show he is in the community of the New Covenant.

### **Baptism by Sprinkling**

### **Replacement Theology**

The idea that the church has replaced Israel in God's plan. It is the belief that the Jews are no longer God's chosen people and that God does not have specific future plans for the nation of Israel. (The opposite of dispensationalism.)

### **Elder Rule**

The authority to make the major decisions of the church is vested in the elders rather than the congregation.

### **The Doctrines of Grace (Grace)**

According to reformed theology, the doctrines of grace are T.U.L.I.P.

### **The Gospel**

According to reformed theology, the gospel is T.U.L.I.P.

Arthur Cushman, "*Calvinism is the gospel and to teach Calvinism is in fact to preach the gospel.*"

John Piper, "*The doctrines of grace (T.U.L.I.P.) are the warp and woof of the gospel...*"

### **Other Definitions**

Hyper Calvinism – An extreme form of Calvinism that appeared in the mid 1700's that rejects the command to share the gospel.

Open Theism – An extreme form of Arminianism that rejects the truth that God knows the future.

Paradox – A figure of speech. It is a statement that seems to unite two opposite ideas. For example: "We become free by becoming a slave."

Antinomy – An appearance of contradiction between conclusions which seem equally logical, reasonable or necessary. Antimony is not a real contradiction, but it looks like one. For example: the sovereignty of God and the free will of man.

Hermeneutics – the art and science of interpreting the Word of God. The number one question of hermeneutics is, "What was the author trying to communicate to his readers at the time he wrote it?" This is of extreme importance in our study of theology because it is based on the idea that God's true intentions are discovered through His Words.