

What Is Reformed Theology?
“Doctrines of Grace – Part IV: Irresistible Grace”

I. Introduction.

A. What we have covered thus far.

1. **Radical Depravity** – Hopeless state of man.
Election – Accomplished by the Father
Particular Redemption – Accomplished by the Son
2. Today’s Topic
Irresistible Grace – Accomplished by the Spirit

B. Brief review.

1. Radical Depravity – Genesis 3; Romans 3:10-18
2. Election – Ephesians 1:3-5
3. Particular Redemption – Matthew 1:21

C. Definition of Effectual Calling or Irresistible Grace.

1. Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter 10.

II. Irresistible Grace

A. Luke 14:15-24

1. Note significance of verbs: bring, vs 21, and compel, vs 23
2. Boice and Ryken

B. Two types of calling.

1. General or external – Matt. 11:28; John 7:37

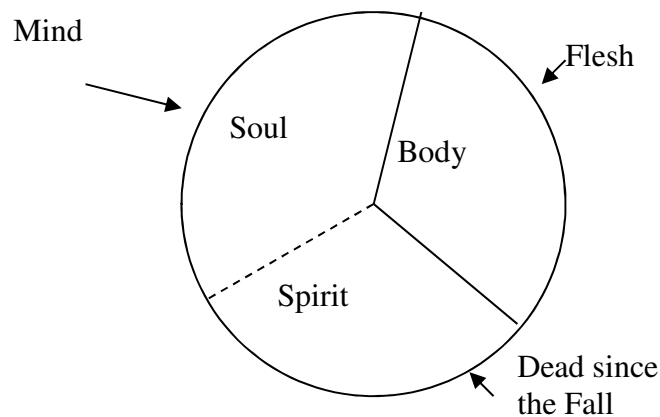
a. Men, left to themselves, are unable to answer this call

2. Specific or Internal Call

a. Regeneration (a Biblical term, Titus 3:5).

b. Regeneration involves a rebirth of the spiritual dimension of man that has been dead since the fall.

Review illustration of man's deadness:

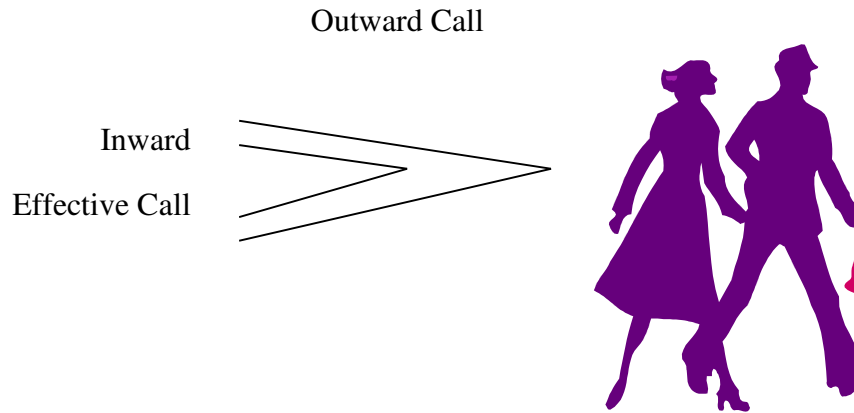


c. Texts which reveal regeneration (the inward call). John 1:12-13; 3:3,5; Titus 3:5; I Peter 1:3

d. Signaled in the Old Testament as necessary for salvation – Deut. 30:6; Eze 36:26-27; II Cor. 5:17-18; I John 5:21; Eph. 2:1,5; Col 2:13

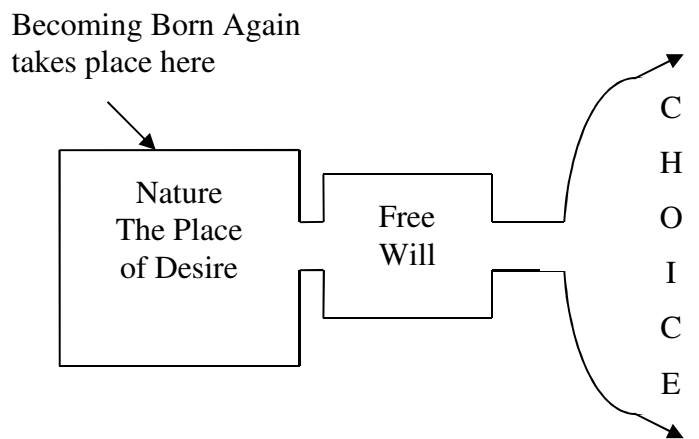
e. We learn that we did not choose to become Born Again. God caused us to become Born Again, and we chose to follow Christ.

f. Diagram on inward and outward call.



1. God causes growth – I Cor. 3:4-7

C. Diagram on the Operation of the Will



1. Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter 9 on Freedom of the Will.

D. Only the chosen (elect) come to know the secrets of the kingdom – i.e. salvation in Christ.

1. Matthew 11:25-27; Luke 8:10; I Cor. 2:14

E. “Calling” as a term in the New Testament (John Murray)

1. Romans 1:6-7; Romans 11:25; I Cor. 1:9; Eph. 4:1; II Tim. 1:8-9; II Peter 1:10

III. A metaphor from Scripture.

A. The prophet Ezekiel