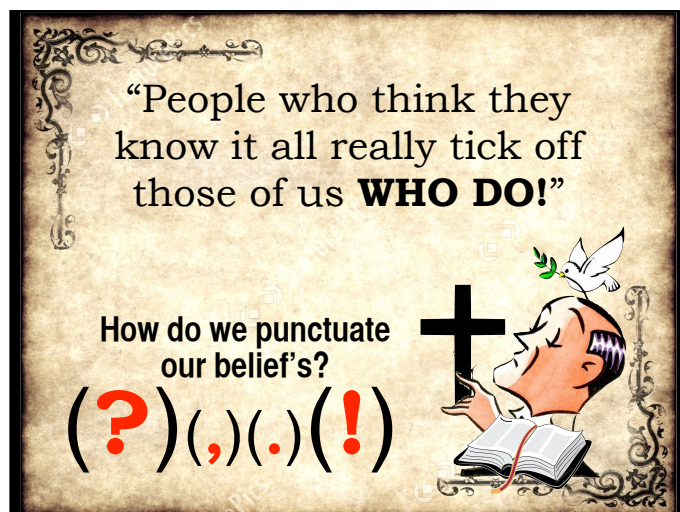




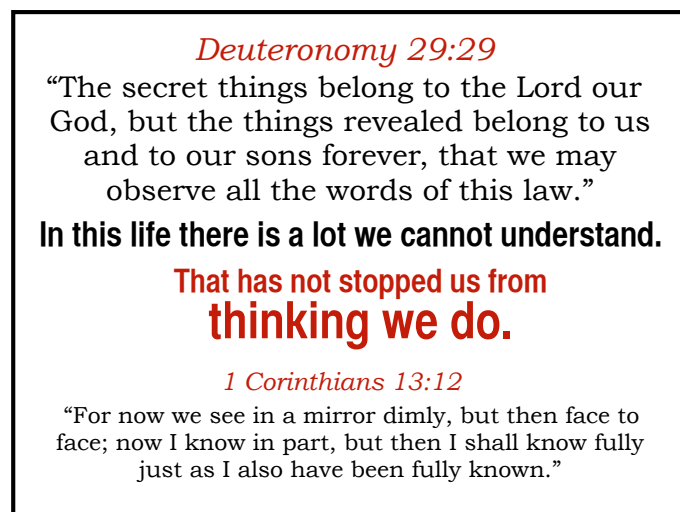
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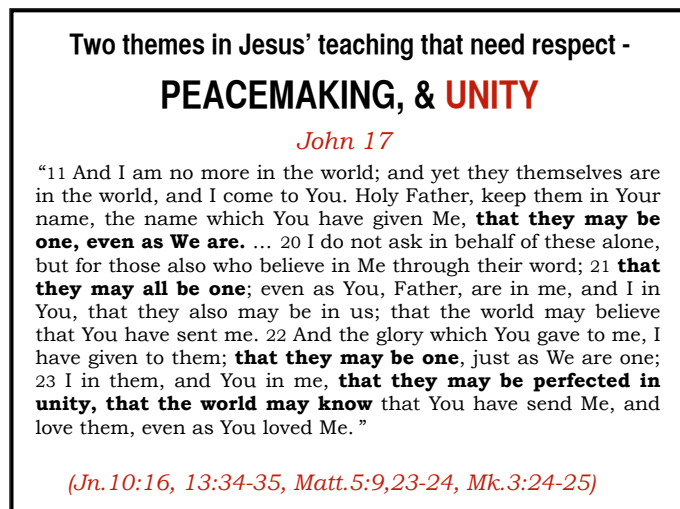
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3



4



5



6

Experiential legalism

Some Christians believe and teach that there is a special baptism with the Spirit (a dramatic infusion of power) that comes after salvation.

This is authenticated by "speaking in tongues".

1 Corinthians 12

"13 For by one Spirit **we were all baptized** into one body,... and made to drink of one Spirit.... 29 All are not workers of miracles, are they? 30 All do not have gifts of healings, do they? **All do not speak with tongues, do they?** All do not interpret, do they?"

The Body of Christ is not a "cast system".

It is to be neither "charismaniac" nor "charisphobic".

7

It is all too easy to make **OUR** gifts, systems, & priorities
"God's Standard" for **EVERYONE**.

1 Corinthians 1

"10 Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree, and **there be no divisions among you, but you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment.** 11 For I have been informed concerning you, my brethren, by Chloe's people, **that there are quarrels among you.** 12 Now I mean this, that each one of you is saying, **"I am of Paul," and "I of Apollos," and "I of Cephas," and "I of Christ."**

1 Corinthians 4

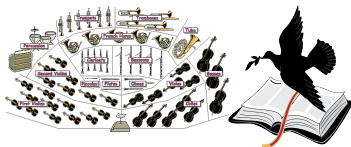
"1 Let a man regard us in this manner, as **servants of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.** ... 6 Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively applied to myself and Apollos for your sakes, that in us you might **learn not to exceed what is written,** in order that no one of you might become arrogant in behalf of one against the other."

8

**God's design of the Body of Christ
is to include differences.**

1 Corinthians 12

"4 Now there are **varieties of gifts**, but the same Spirit. 5 And there are **varieties of ministries**, and the same Lord. 6 And there are **varieties of effects**, but the same God who works all things in all persons. 7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."



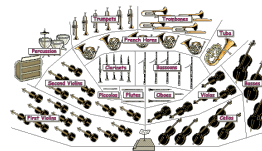
**Orchestra Instruments
make different sounds
that can be confusing**

**until they play
from the same
music and have a
trusted conductor**

**who guides the
diversity in unity.**

9

Both diversity & harmony are vital.



**The key to community
is not forced
uniformity but wise
orchestration of our
unique differences.**

1 Corinthians 12

"18 But now **God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired.** 19 . . . 21 And the **eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you";** or again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." 22 On the contrary, it is much truer that the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary;"

10

Moral legalism

Some Christians believe and teach that whole Bible is written not just FOR us but also TO and ABOUT us.

Conflation of O.C. and N.C.

Old Testament One Covenant New Testament

Faith (God's grace)



Kingdom



Works (human moral responsibility)

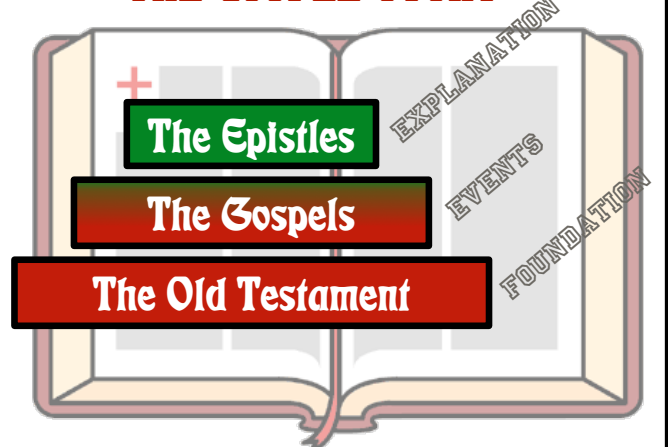
Moses

Jesus

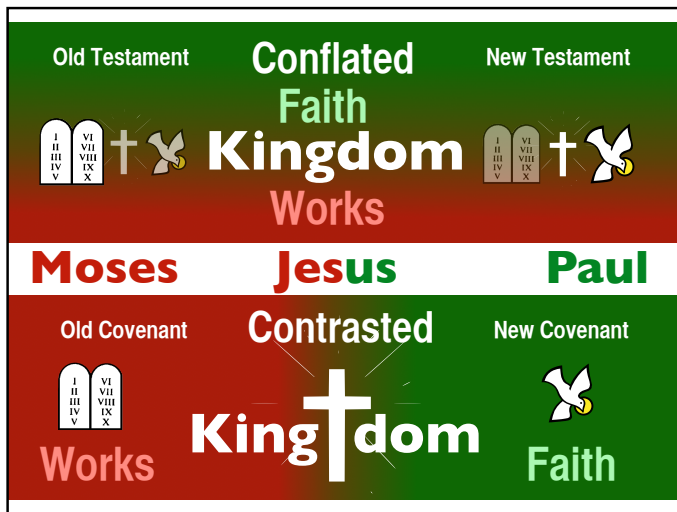
Paul

11

THE GOSPEL STORY



12



13

Respecting the “covenant distinctives” is the context for Apostolic teaching.

John 1:17
“For the **Law** was given through **Moses**; **grace** and truth were realized through **Jesus Christ**.”

John 16:13
“But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, **He will guide you** into all the truth;”

Colossians 1:26
“the **mystery** which has been **hidden from the past ages** and generations; but has now been manifested to His saints,”

Acts 11:15
“And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as He did upon us **at the beginning**.”

The nation Israel The Body of Christ

Old Covenant New Covenant

Old Testament - Gospels Acts - Epistles

14

Romans 16

“²⁵ Now to Him who is able to establish you according to **my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ**, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been **kept secret for long ages past**, ²⁶ **but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets**, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, **leading to obedience of faith**; ²⁷ to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever. Amen.”

15

Four kinds of righteousness

1. God's perfect character
2. Man's relative virtue

Word of the Cross - fit for heaven

3. **The imputed virtue of Christ**
This is the gift of justification by faith.
we “in Christ”

Way of the Cross - fit for earth

4. **The implemented life of the Spirit**
This is the fruit of justification by faith.
“Christ in us”

16

Old Covenant hope and longing was focused on **MATERIAL** and **SOCIAL BLESSING IN THIS LIFE**.

- **The peace of national Israel** - a political messianic age of peace and prosperity for the whole world.
- **Holiness** - living lives of moral and ceremonial discipline according to the Law was demanded.

All Scripture is written **FOR** us
but not always **TO** or **ABOUT** us.

The side effects of this can put us **UNDER** the Law
and miss the point of the Word & Way of the Cross.

17

Intellectual legalism

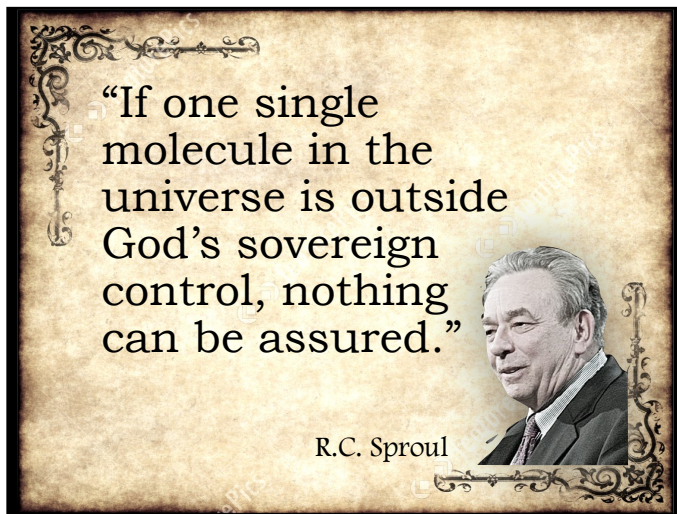
Some Christians teach that God's sovereign control of His creation is a vital part of His grace being without works.

- “**Sovereign-grace**” is treated as one word.
- God is believed to **micromanages** faith and all works for His glory.

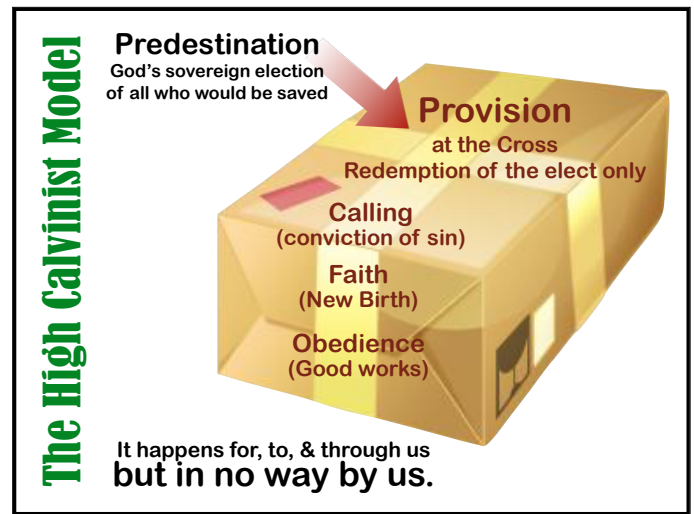
The side effects of this can make a mockery of:

- God's power, foreknowledge, creativity,
- God's glory & image in all humans,
- love, free choice, justice, etc.
- authentic relationships,

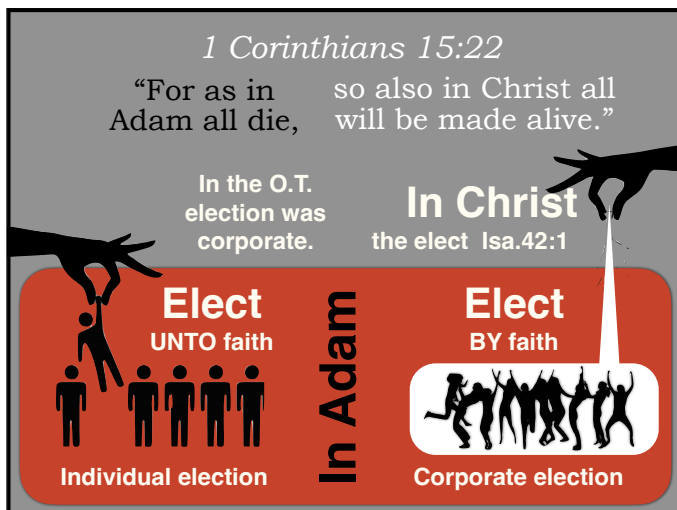
18



19



20



21

Christ’s atonement is limited.

- Not everyone will be saved.
- Only those who believe will be saved.
- But was Christ’s work at the Cross limited in its intent or only in its reception?

Calvinists emphasize
that the redemption was **FINISHED** at the Cross.

Arminians emphasize that
the redemption was only **FURNISHED** at the Cross.

Faith is a gift from God
to “the elect” who were
predestined to believe
before they were born.

Man has freedom to
respond to the Gospel by
the common grace
bestowed on all who bear
God’s image.

Were the elect saved
before they believed?

Are we saved by faith?

22

TULIP (Reformed Theology)

- T**otal depravity - we are incapable of responding to Christ without first being regenerated.
- U**nconditional election - God chooses individuals for salvation based on His sovereign will alone.
- L**imited atonement - Christ’s death affected the redemption of the elect only.
- I**rrresistible grace - All whom God calls cannot but respond with faith and obedience.
- P**reservation of the saints - All whom God calls will not fail to display faith and good works until the end.

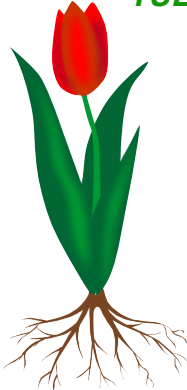

UNCONDITIONAL



23

TULIP’s roots (presuppositions)

- The reading of both O.T. and N.T. as though they are addressed **TO** and **ABOUT** us.
- God’s sovereignty demands the **micromanagement** of all things based on His free choice alone.
- The belief that human **free choice** is a **meritorious work**.
- All of Scripture must be understood so as to conform to the above foundational “truths”.

24

Pruning **TULIP** (Arminian theology)

- **T**otal depravity - Affects every area of life but not completely.
- **U**nconditional election - God elected Christ and all that He foreknew would freely respond to him.
- **L**imited atonement - Christ's death paid the debt of all humanity but its benefits were realized only by those who received Christ by faith.
- **I**rresistible grace - We are free to receive or reject Christ.
- **P**erseverance of the saints - Salvation is for those who maintain their faith and hope in Christ.



25

Be a Berean

Calvinists point to the rigid decrees of God, while Arminians point to the relational dynamics of God.

Both are right in what they affirm but wrong in what they deny.

The Bible gives us a theology which is more human than Calvinism, and more divine than Arminianism, and more Christian than either of them.

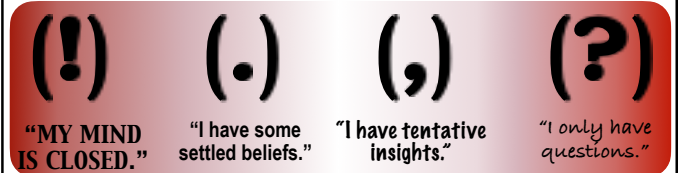
Philip Schaff (paraphrase)

26

How can we be spiritual peacemakers, and bodybuilders, while learning from our unique differences?

- ✓ **Celebrate differences** - that can keep us from distorting or distracting from the Gospel.
- ✓ **The main thing** is to keep the main thing, the main thing.
- ✓ **Live with paradoxes** that are beyond the scope of our human need to understand.
- ✓ **Exercise humility** - Scripture may be inerrant; but its readers are not.
- ✓ **Read the Bible wisely** - context, principles, emphasis, and community consensus.

27



Romans 11:33

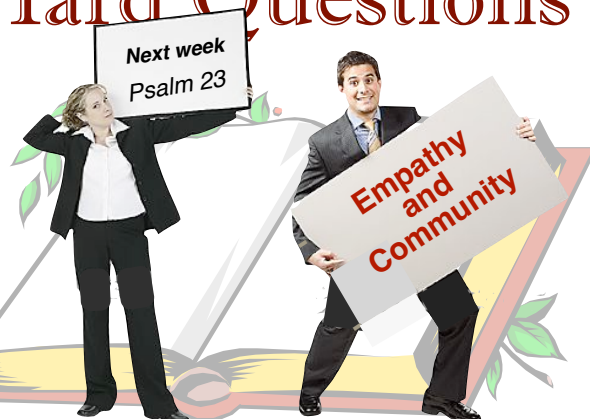
"Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!

How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!"



28

Hard Questions



29