

# chosen & choosing

How God's life becomes ours

## Week 3: Freed For Faith

Love is always persuasive but never coercive.  
~ Norman L. Geisler, *Chosen But Free*

### INTRODUCTION – Sovereign Love

John 1:18; 1 Timothy 2:1-5; 2 Peter 3:9; 1 John 4:8, 16

#### WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?

God is sovereign love. His ruling authority is not in contradiction to his essence as self-giving love. Love *frees* us for relationship; it does not *force* us into it. God has chosen you, and wants you to choose him back.

John 3:16; Ephesians 5:25; 2 Corinthians 3:14-16

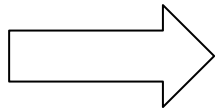
Just because God is all-powerful doesn't mean he is all-controlling because that would be unloving.

### DINE IN – Unconditional Election?

Ephesians 1:1-11; Ephesians 2:8-10  
Also see John 6:44-45; Acts 5:31; 11:18; 13:38-39, 48; 16:14; 2 Tim 2:25  
Romans 9:11-16

#### "TULIP"...

- Total Depravity
- Unconditional Election
- Limited Atonement
- Irresistible Grace
- Perseverance of the Saints



#### "GRACE"...

- God's Broken Image
- Reborn through Faith
- Atonement for All
- Chosen and Choosing
- Empowered to Grow

### LOOK TO THE BOOK – Reborn through Faith (or Released to Believe)

- The role of foreknowledge....  
Romans 8:29-30; 1 Peter 1:1-2
- The role of faith...  
Luke 11:9-13; John 1:9; 3:15-18; 12:36; 16:8;  
Acts 2:38; 16:31; 17:30; Romans 1:16; 5:1; Hebrews 11:6
- Faith is not a "work"...  
Romans 3:17; 4:3-5; Galatians 3:11; John 6:28-29

### TAKE OUT – I'll Have That to Go Please

God loves you like crazy. And he deeply desires for you to be saved.

### CONCLUSION – The Irreligious Gospel

Ephesians 2:8-10

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#### HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS

##### Warming Up...

1. Would you describe yourself as someone who more naturally *thinks* your way toward God or *feels* your way toward God? What are the strengths and weaknesses of both?
2. Do you tend to filter what Scripture says about God through an emphasis on his sovereignty or his love? Why?

##### Look to the Book...

3. Read **Romans 9**. You can do it. A) What is your first reaction to this passage? B) Two possible interpretations include: 1) This is about God choosing each individual who will be saved and damned for no reason other than his own choice (Individual Election). 2) This is saying that God can do whatever he wants, so don't complain when he chooses to offer salvation to others you don't like and not save others who have worked hard at earning his favour. In fact, if God wants to destroy the whole system of Israel (Temple, Torah, Tribe, Territory, Tradition) and offers salvation more broadly than that, it's his choice to make (Corporate Election). What evidence for each do you see in the passage? C) See verses 9-13. Note that "hate" means to love less (see Genesis 29:30-31; Luke 14:25-26). Based on passages like this, Westboro Baptist Church (e.g., [www.godhatesfags.com](http://www.godhatesfags.com)) teaches that God "hates" people by not electing them to salvation? How would you respond? D) How does Paul's own conclusion in verses 30-32 help draw out the main point of the passage?
4. How do the following passages help us understand how and why God sometimes hardens human hearts and what role we play in the process? **Exodus 8:32; 9:34; 10:1; Romans 1:24,26; 2 Corinthians 3:14-16; 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12; 1 Timothy 4:2.**

##### So What?...

5. Can you think of any activities, relationships, or repeated thoughts in your life that you sense "harden" your heart toward God? Talk about them and pray for each other.

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