



chosen &
choosing
How God's life becomes ours

Week 4: Love Unlimited

The “L” in TULIP stands for *Limited Atonement* – the idea that Jesus died for the sins of the elect only, and not the whole world. Good Christians on both sides of the debate have strong opinions...

So far as the work of salvation is concerned, Jesus came into the world specifically to save those individuals whom the Father had given him, and not others. ... Does this weaken the gospel message? Far from weakening the message, the doctrine of definite atonement strengthens it and alone makes it a genuine gospel.

-- James Montgomery Boice, *The Doctrines of Grace: Rediscovering the Evangelical Gospel*

Limited atonement necessarily means God has limited His love to only some. In a redemptive sense, He loves only the elect; He does not really love all sinners and desire that they be saved. Everyone HE desires to be saved is saved, and that is only the elect.

-- Norman L. Geisler, *Chosen But Free*

It is the non-elect that are the problem. If some are not elected unto salvation then it would seem that God is not all that loving toward them. But then, God may owe people justice, but never mercy.

-- R. C. Sproul, *Chosen by God*

We do not know why God has purposed to save some and not others. ... We cannot say why his love to all men is not the same as his love to the elect.

-- Charles Spurgeon, *Sermons on the Elect*

It is the glory of God and his essential nature mainly to dispense mercy (but also wrath) on whomever he pleases.

-- John Piper, *The Justification of God*

The offering of Christ once made is the perfect redemption, propitiation and satisfaction for all the sins of the whole world, both original and actual.

-- Anglican Church Thirty-Nine Articles of 1571

Christ has taken away not only the sins of some men but your sins and those of the whole world. The offering was for the sins of the whole world, even though the whole world does not believe.

-- Martin Luther, *Exposition of the Epistle of St. Paul to the Colossians*

Christ suffered for the sins of the world.

-- John Calvin, *The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Hebrews and the First and Second Epistles of St. Peter*

Our Lord Jesus suffered for all and there is neither great nor small who is not inexcusable today, for we can obtain salvation in Him.

-- John Calvin, *Sermons on Isaiah's Prophecy of the Death and Passion of Christ*

Christ's death on the cross as proclaimed in the gospel is a sincere offer of salvation to all sinners.

-- David L. Allen, *Whosoever Will: A Biblical-Theological Critique of Five-Point Calvinism*

Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world.

-- John the Baptist