

# chosen & choosing

How God's life becomes ours

## Week 5: An Offer You Can't Refuse?

Self-determining choice and refusal have been given by the Lord to men.  
We have chosen life and believe God through His voice.  
~ Clement of Alexandra (150-215), *Stromata*

### INTRODUCTION – God the Father versus The Godfather

The sole reason non-Calvinist evangelical Christians object to monergism is because it makes God the ultimate, even if indirect, cause of the reprobates' unbelief and damnation. It does serious harm to God's reputation.  
~ Roger E. Olson, *Against Calvinism*

- Could an all-powerful being force us to desire him? *Yes.*
- Would an all-loving being force us to desire him? *No.*

1 John 4:8, 16

### DINE IN – Irresistible Grace?

**THEORY:** Since God wants all people to be saved (**Matthew 18:14; 1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9**), and calls all people to come to him, but only compels some people to come to him, he must have two wills, two calls – his general, outward, revealed call to everyone (which is resisted), and his secret, inward, effectual call only to the elect (which is irresistible).

- 1) **Luke 14:23** – God “compels” people to come to his banquet.
  - a. But the parable is a story about people resisting his will.
  - b. Some come without being compelled.
  - c. The servants, not the Master, do the compelling (hence, the Crusades).
  - d. To compel means to strongly bring, but free will is assumed.
- 2) **John 6:44** – No one can come unless God “draws” (compels?) them.
  - a. But see **John 12:32** – Jesus draws everyone!
- 3) **Romans 8:30** – God will save completely those he predestines to save.
  - a. But see verse 29. God's predestination is rooted in his foreknowledge.
  - b. May be the predestination of the church in general, not particular individuals.
- 4) **Romans 9** – God is choosing who he wants to save.
  - a. And he wants all people to be saved.

### LOOK TO THE BOOK – Love Is a Choice

Scripture records the story of God wooing and us resisting...

**Psalm 81:11-13; Jeremiah 32:33; Matthew 23:37; Luke 7:30; Matthew 19:24; John 7:17; Acts 7:51**

*Why do we reject “Irresistible Grace”?*

- 1) Forced love is not love. And God, who is love, made us to love.
- 2) Punishing the non-elect for rejecting Christ, when they could not do otherwise, is unjust. And God is just.
- 3) We prioritize biblical theology over systematic theology.

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

*THREE WAYS WE RESIST GOD'S GRACE...*

- 1) Saying NO to God's offer of salvation.
- 2) Saying NO to God's direction for life.
- 3) Saying YES to Scripture, theology, and philosophy (without saying yes to Jesus).

John 5:39-40

### CONCLUSION – Will You Marry Me?

Hosea 2:19-20

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#### HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS

##### Warming Up...

1. After reviewing the message, talk about what most perplexed or encouraged you.
2. If God forces us to believe in him, how is that not loving a) of God? b) of us?
3. Can you think of ways this past week that you may have resisted the Spirit?

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

4. Read **1 John 4:7-21**. A) What verse or idea stands out to you the most? Why? B) John's emphasis is on how we should express our love for the invisible God by loving visible people around us. Christ-followers should be people-lovers. And when we express practical, sacrificial, Christ-like love to people, we are loving God. Can you think of a way this past week that you loved others like Jesus? C) Notice that Christ-followers are already spiritually reborn (**4:7; 5:1**). We have entered our spiritual life prior to death and judgment day. Talk about how this is different than the way of religion. D) Based on this passage, how would you define “love”? (Also consider 3:16; and any other passages you can think of.) E) What do you think it means about God to say “God is love”? What are the implications for our lives? F) How is love contrary to fear? How does this relate to passages that tell us to fear the Lord (eg., **2 Corinthians 5:11; 1 Peter 2:17**; etc)?

##### So What?...

5. What situation in your life makes it hard to love like Jesus? A particular person or group or context. Talk about one step you can take this week, one practical thing you can do, to love that person or persons like Jesus this week. Pray for each other that you might follow through.
6. How could you love others (and therefore God) better in your Home Church context?

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