



# WHAT WE BELIEVE

## Lesson 4: WHAT WE BELIEVE ... ABOUT ELECTION

*“Even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will”*

*Ephesians 1:4-5*

### Ordo Salutis: Order of Salvation

Election	Eternal	} Union with Christ
Salvation – the free call	Initiation	
Regeneration	Initiation	
Repentance and Faith (Conversion)	Initiation	
Justification	Actual	
Adoption	Actual	
Sanctification	Actual	
Perseverance	Ongoing	
Glorification	Final	

### Union with Christ

- Analogies of our Union with Christ
  - Union with Christ is revealed through several major images in the NT
  - Marriage (Eph 5:22; Rev 21:2)

- Vine and branches (John 15:1-8)
  - Baptism (Rom 6:1-11)
  - Body and head (Rom 12:4-8; 1 Cor 12:13ff)
  - Trinity (John 17:20-26)
- Extent of our Union with Christ
    - What happened to Christ metaphorically and spiritually has occurred to all who are “in Christ”
      - We are chosen in Him eternally (Eph 1:4)
      - We have died with Him (Rom 6:1ff)
      - We have been buried with Him (Rom 6:4)
      - We have sat down with Him (Eph 2:6)
      - We will be glorified with Him (Rom 8:17)
- Christ is the environment in which we live like fish live in water
    - *1 Cor 1:30, And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption*

## Election

### What does “election” mean?

Election emphasizes God’s free choice of individuals to salvation. This election of certain individuals is predetermined before creation

### **Doctrinal Statement: *What we believe about Sovereign Grace (Election)***

*By God’s sovereign grace, for the display of His glory, some are chosen to eternal life through Jesus Christ, to the praise of His glorious grace. This sovereign election – taking place before the foundation of the world – is solely out of God’s free grace and love, without anything in the individual as a condition or cause moving Him to choose them, and is perfectly consistent with the free agency of man. (Rom. 8:28-30; Rom. 9:6-18; 1 Cor. 1:27-29; Eph. 1:4-5, 11; 1 Thess. 1:4-5; 2 Thess. 2:13; 2 Tim 1:9; 1 Pet. 1:2)*

## I. God's election is grounded in His own perfection

- *Doctrinal statement:* By God's sovereign grace, for the display of His glory, some are chosen to eternal life
- It is done in love (Eph 1:4-5)
- It is an expression of His mercy and sovereignty (Rom 9:15)

## II. God's election is of individuals

- *Doctrinal Statement:* ... some are chosen to eternal life
- *Rom 8:29-30, For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.*

## III. God's election was before the foundation of the world

- *Doctrinal Statement:* This sovereign election – taking place before the foundation of the world
- *Eph 1:4-5, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world*

## IV. God's election was not based on foreseen faith

- *Doctrinal Statement:* "... is solely out of God's free grace and love, without anything in the individual as a condition or cause moving Him to choose them"
- *Rom 9:11, though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad—in order that God's purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of him who calls*
- *1 Cor 1:27-28, But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are*

## V. God's election alone does not result in salvation

- *Doctrinal Statement: "... and is perfectly consistent with the free agency of man"*
- **Bruce Milne**, "Election must be held in relation to, or in tension with, the Bible's clear insistence of human responsibility in face of God's summons in the gospel (Matt 23:37; Heb 12:25). To stress only one of these strands of Scripture and effectively ignore the other is to put asunder what God has joined together."

## VI. God's election results in God's glory

- *Doctrinal Statement: "By God's sovereign grace, for the display of His glory, some are chosen to eternal life through Jesus Christ, to the praise of His glorious grace."*
- *Eph 1:4-6, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world ... to the praise of his glorious grace.*
- *Rom 9:23, in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory*

## Objections

1. Election is inconsistent with human freedom
2. Election is equal to fatalism
3. Election of some to eternal life must mean the election of others to damnation

## Blessings

1. It has the effect of humility (Eph 2:8-9)
2. It has the effect of thankfulness (2 Thess 2:13)
3. It gives us immense hope and security (Rom 8:31-39)
4. It gives purpose to life (2 Thess 2:13-14)
5. It gives us confidence in sharing the Good news (John 10:26-27)