

## Election

Even as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world,  
that we should be holy and blameless before him. -Eph. 1:4

### Conditional Election

- God foresees a person is going to come to saving faith, then he chooses that person to be saved.
- **Conditional** upon foreknowledge of that person's faith.

### Arguments

- 1) The universal love of God.
  - God has an equal and impartial love for everyone.
  - John 3:16
- 2) God wants or desires all to be saved.
  - 1 Tim. 2:4- [God] who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.
  - 2 Pet. 3:9- ...[God] is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.
- 3) Human libertarian freedom.
  - Also known as "power of contrary choice."
  - If you choose one thing, you could have chosen otherwise.
- 4) The Bible says God's election is **conditioned** on foreknowledge.
  - Rom. 8:29- 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.
  - 1 Pet. 1:1-2- ...elect exiles...according to the **foreknowledge** of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood.
- 5) Divine justice requires conditional election.
- 6) Practical implications regarding prayer/ evangelism.

### Unconditional Election

- God's choosing of us is not conditional upon us, but conditional upon the private counsel of his mind and will.
- God has his reasons, but they can't include our qualities.

### Arguments

- 1) Sovereign grace of God in election.
  - Eph. 1:10-11- ...having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works **all things** according to the **counsel of his will**.
- 2) God's love is complex, not simple.
  - Ex. 4:21-23
  - Ezek. 20:7-9
  - Is. 43:1-7
- 3) Freedom of inclination.
  - We choose what we most want.
  - Rom. 8:7-9
  - 1 Cor. 2:14, 2 Cor. 4:4
  - God must change our inclinations
    - Eph. 2:1-5, 2 Tim. 2:24-26
- 4) Election is **based** on foreknowledge
  - Rom. 8:29
  - Amos 3:2- You only have I **known** of all the families of the earth; therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities.
  - Rom. 11:2- God has not rejected his people whom he **foreknew**...
  - 1 Pet. 1:20
- 5) Divine justice requires unconditional election.
  - Rom. 5:12-14, Rom. 1:18
- 6) Practical implications regarding prayer/ evangelism
  - Paul in Corinth, Acts 18:9-11