



The Five Points of Calvinism 7

Practical Implications (1 Cor. 14:6-12)

o The understanding the Five Points of Calvinism helps us to live faithfully before God in an age of rapid changes, confusion, and muted call to spiritual battle.

1. Concerning “the Doctrines of Grace”.

- This is a summary of the doctrine of salvation, not the whole doctrine of salvation.
 - : They, nevertheless, stand or fall together. Hence, some say “doctrine” instead of “doctrines”.
 - : We still find people and churches that hold to only four points, leaving out Limited Atonement/Particular Redemption”, claiming the Christ’s death is “sufficient for all, efficient to some”.
- Today, there many evangelical Christians are Arminians, or hold to modified Arminianism.
 - : Be clear, make a stand, which is the true doctrine of salvation? Cf. Gal. 1:6-9.
 - : Many are unclear what “free will” in man means, and troubled about how to reconcile divine sovereignty with human responsibility.

2. These doctrines must not be used as a “five-pointed club” to bash others.

- For truth to be established, error must be exposed and removed (Jer. 1:10).
 - : Many true believers do not have opportunity of exposure to the truth.
 - : It has taken us that long to understand these truths. There is much we still need to learn (1 Cor. 10:12).
- This “multi-coloured lamp” must not be hidden (Mark 4:21). Truth must be communicated.
 - : If not taught and corrected, the next Apollos will not be helped? Cf. Acts 18:24-26.

3. The Doctrines of Grace has changed many lives.

- Some were never truly converted because they have never heard the true gospel.
 - : When confronted by the true gospel in the Doctrines of Grace, they were broken & saved.
- Some have never been weaned of self despite having trusted in Christ for salvation.
 - : They have been humbled by the experience of truth and become more useful in God’s service.
 - : Old hymns tend to express these doctrines better than modern gospel songs.

4. Avoid the Arminian practice of the altar call.

- It is contrary to Calvinism and produces adverse effects.
 - : (i) It gives the impression that Christ’s death is not quite sufficient;
 - : (ii) It makes the hearers think that their action contributes in some way to their salvation.
 - : (iii) It tends to produce many false converts;
 - : (iv) It makes evangelism to such people more difficult as they think they are already saved;
 - : (v) It fills the church with professing believers who are not truly born again.

- Sadly, there are those who profess to be Reformed but adopt the altar call.
- : The use of “The Four Spiritual Laws” of the Campus Crusade for Christ is Arminian. Intellectual assent and the act of saying “the sinner’s prayer” cannot save.

5. Avoid the High-Calvinist believe in “providential evangelism”.

- It fails to see that human responsibility is subsumed under divine sovereignty.
- It does not interested in organised evangelism and missions.
- It has difficulty with the free offer of the gospel.

6. Avoid the Antinomian idea of “once saved, always saved” regardless of how one lives.

- It fails to see that holy living is a characteristic of true conversion.
- It gives assurance of salvation to those who are not concerned to live holy lives.
- It does not see importance of the law of God in sanctification.
- The “New Calvinism” (the Young, Restless, and Reformed Movement, YRRM) of John Piper, Mark Driscoll, Tim Keller, Joshua Harris, etc. encourages a worldly attitude & behaviour. It is basically Antinomian, while holding intellectually to the Five Points.

= Let us be consistently Reformed, in personal life and in our churches, by showing the Reformation characteristics of *Sola Scriptura*, *Sola Fide*, *Sola Gratia*, *Solus Christus*, & *Soli Deo Gloria*.

Review Questions

1. Why do some people suggest that the singular “doctrine” should be used to describe the Five Points of Calvinism instead of “the Doctrines of Grace”?
2. Which point of doctrine is left out by some who would call themselves Reformed?
3. If these doctrines must not be used as “a five-pointed club”, how should we use it?
4. In what ways have the Doctrines of Grace changed lives?
5. State the adverse effects of the altar call as practised by the Arminians.
6. Why do Calvinists avoid the use of “The Four Spiritual Laws” of the Campus Crusade for Christ?
7. Why must we avoid the idea of “providential evangelism” taught by High-Calvinists?
8. What is wrong with the Antinomian idea of “once saved, always saved”?
9. What is wrong with the New Calvinism movement?
10. How should we be consistently Reformed?

Assignment/Discussion

To be Reformed in the right sense, there must be adherence to the totality of the Bible’s teaching and not merely to the Five Points of Calvinism. Also, it means the need to reform the doctrine, worship, and government of the church. In other words, we need to be subject to Christ, the Head of the church, in His offices as prophet, priest, and king. Will there ever be full agreement on these matters?
