Divine Control & Human Freedom: TULIP vs TCURP

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Spring 2008
TULIP

- Total depravity
- Unconditional election
- Limited atonement
- Irresistible grace
- Perseverance of the saints

[www.mslick.com/tulip.htm]

Total Depravity

- Desperate condition of fallen sinners apart from God (Eph. 2:1)
- Human condition: Mark 7:21-23; Jer. 17:19; Rom. 6:20, 3:10-12; 1 Cor. 2:14; Eph. 2:15, 2:3
- Only by God’s will: Jn. 1:12-13; Phil. 1:29; Jn. 6:28-29; Acts 13:48; Eph. 1:1-11; Rom. 8:29, 9:9-23
- Not much dispute among many Christian traditions.
Unconditional Election

- In His sovereign grace, God has chosen to rescue certain sinners.
- Eph. 1:4-8, Rom. 9:11, Rom. 9:15,21
- Unconditional: independent on God’s foreknowledge of person’s faith, obedience, etc.

Limited Atonement

- Christ died only for the elect.
- Matt. 26:28; Is. 53:12 (“many”, not “all”)
- John 10:11,15; Matt. 25:32-33; John 17:9; Acts 20:28; Eph. 5:25-27
- Hard Calvinists also affirm “double predestination.”
Irresistible Grace

- The elect cannot resist God’s grace.
- Rom. 9:16; Phil. 2:12-13; John 6:28-29; Acts 13:48; John 1:12-13
- Calvinists deny that God “forces” Himself on us, and that humans are still free.

Perseverance of the Saints

- The elect are eternally secure.
- John 10:27-28, 6:47; Rom. 8:1; 1 Cor. 10:13; Phil. 1:6
- Some non-Calvinists also affirm this notion.
TCURP?

- Total depravity
- Conditional election
- Unlimited atonement
- Resistible grace
- Present assurance of salvation.

[www.xenos.org/classes/principles/cpu1w6.htm]
Depravity and Inability

- Both Calvinists and Arminians affirm human depravity and original sin.
- But there is a difference: In Arminianism, depravity refers to “the natural man” [Wesley], one who is utterly without God’s grace. But no such person exists. (In Calvinism, depravity is the condition of actual humans.)
- Arminian “inability” is hypothetical.

Election

- God “wants” all to be save:
  2 Pet. 3:9, 1 Tim. 2:4, Ezek. 18:23
- Salvation conditioned on human act of belief:
  Eph. 1:13, Gal. 2:16, Rom. 4:4,5
- Predestination
  - Corporate
  - Service, not salvation
  - Conditional upon faith in Christ
  - Temporal
Atonement

 Traditional view: Christ’s atonement is “substitutionary.” (Even Wesley affirmed this.)

 Arminian view: atonement is “governmental” (Christ’s death was not our penal substitution).

Grace

 Prevenient grace: God’s grace that precedes salvation.

 In Arminianism, prevenient grace is universal and overcomes hypothetical inability.

 Hence, grace is resistable.
Perseverance

Perseverance of the saints incompatible with apostasy passages in Hebrews?


What about Heb. 6:17-20, 7:23-25?