

#11: THE PROBLEMS OF LS ARE ROOTED IN CONSISTENT CALVINISM

I. EXPLAINING THE CONTROVERSY

II. EVALUATING THE CONTROVERSY

A. The PROBLEMS... *"How Does the Teaching of 'Lordship Salvation' Line Up With Scripture?"*

- 1. Lordship Salvation GARBLES THE GOSPEL** by mixing your works with Christ's finished work, destroying salvation 'by grace' and taking the spotlight off Jesus Christ and putting it on you.
- 2. Lordship Salvation REDEFINES THE RIGHT RESPONSE OF THE GOSPEL FROM FAITH ALONE IN CHRIST ALONE** by requiring for salvation the turning from sin, total surrender to Christ's Lordship /Mastery, and a lifelong commitment to be obedient to Christ.
- 3. Lordship Salvation CONFUSES CHRISTIAN CARNALITY** by denying its ongoing possibility & reality, while then living with blatant contradictions in several examples and passages.
- 4. Lordship Salvation fails to properly distinguish the biblical truths of JUSTIFICATION BEFORE GOD vs. SANCTIFICATION & DISCIPLESHIP IN TIME.**
- 5. Lordship Salvation ANNIHILATES THE ABSOLUTE ASSURANCE** of one's eternal salvation by causing the person to look at their walk & fruit instead of Christ's finished work to possess absolute assurance.
- 6. Lordship Salvation GUARANTEES THE PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS** instead of merely GUARANTEEING THE PRESERVATION OF THE SAVIOR - ETERNAL SECURITY.
- 7. Lordship Salvation MUDDLING MEANINGFUL MOTIVATIONS** to serve Jesus Christ out of His love for us & our thankfulness to Him for having saved us, and instead makes our lives a practical experiment to prove our salvation to ourselves.
- 8. Lordship Salvation PARADOXES POTENTIAL PROBLEMS** instead of facing them for what they really are – blatant contradictions and glaring inconsistencies.
- 9. Lordship Salvation does ERRONEOUS EXEGESIS OF NUMEROUS PROOF TEXTS** by misinterpreting many scriptural passages out of context to fit their theological system while neglecting the very clear explanations of salvation.
- 10. Lordship Salvation SUFFOCATES SPIRITUALITY** by Grace by approaching salvation, assurance, and the Christian life with a legalistic approach instead of by God's grace.
- 11. Lordship Salvation normally is rooted in _____** instead of striking a biblical balance regarding the sovereignty of God & human responsibility with a proper understanding of grace.

Understanding T-U-L-I-P:

- What is the misnomer about Calvinism & Arminianism?
- While all Calvinists do not believe in LS, what must be true of a consistent 5-point Calvinist?
- What is important to remember about how Calvinists define themselves?

Some of the DOCTRINAL PROBLEMS of CONSISTENT CALVINISM.

1) Consistent Calvinism misunderstands _____, by making it _____ to even 'believe in Christ' instead of spiritual separation, etc.

- "Death" in the Bible always carries the idea of _____, never _____.
- The biblical balance: Observe the description of ...

total depravity *but not* total inability to believe

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| - Genesis 2:16,17; 3:6-13 | - Genesis 3:20-21 |
| - Isaiah 1:3-6 | - Isaiah 1:18-20 |
| - Romans 3:10-20 | - Romans 3:21-25, 28, 4:4-5 |
| - Romans 6:17a, 19 | - Romans 6:17b |
| - Ephesians 2:1-3 | - Ephesians 2:4-9 |

2) Consistent Calvinism teaches that people are ultimately condemned due to their sins, not their _____ in Christ, as they supposedly have no ability to believe in Christ unless they are elect and regenerated first. (John 3:16-18; 5:39-40, 6:35-40, 44; 2 Thess. 2:10-12)

3) Consistent Calvinism warps the Bible on _____ by making it to justification instead of glorification. (Romans 8:29-30)

4) Consistent Calvinism has God not loving the _____, nor willing to save it, but only the elect, and then wordsmithing to explain it. (John 3:16; 1 Timothy 2:4-6; 2 Peter 3:9)

- 5) Consistent Calvinism has Christ not dying for the whole _____ and its sins, but only for the elect. (1 John 2:1-2, 5:19)
- 6) Consistent Calvinism leads to ____ absolute assurance of salvation by guaranteeing the perseverance of the saints. (1 John 5:11-13; John 10:27-30; 2 Timothy 2:13)
- 7) Consistent Calvinism teaches that God's grace is irresistible when in fact it can be _____ and has been. (Acts 7:51; Matt. 23:37)
- 8) Consistent Calvinism makes faith the gift of God, instead of _____ being the gift. (Eph. 2:8-9; Romans 6:23; etc.)
- 9) Consistent Calvinism fails to factor in a correct understanding of God's _____ and human or angelic _____ as it relates to _____. (1 Peter 1:2-5; 1 Tim. 5:21)
- 10) Consistent Calvinism does not truly honor God's _____ but is actually very man-centered and works-oriented.