

What Do Calvinists Believe Besides "TULIP"?

1. **THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD** — Fundamental presupposition of the Bible and (therefore) of the "Reformed faith" is the existence of the Infinite-Personal, Triune God revealed in Jesus Christ and in the Holy Scripture. As Creator, Sustainer, Redeemer, and Judge, this true and living God is supreme Lord of all.

2. **THE AUTHORITY AND SUFFICIENCY OF SCRIPTURE** — God has spoken clearly and truthfully in the Bible, to which we must pay careful attention as the only reliable standard of truth/right. Reason is a tool to be used in submission and obedience to the Scriptures.

3. **CREATION AND COVENANTALISM** — All things (including men/women) owe their existence to the personal creative act of God, and man's relationships with God and with one another are structured in terms of "covenant."

4. **TOTAL DEPRAVITY (TULIP)** — Man has rebelled against his Creator and as a result has come under the just wrath and curse of God. Man has lost his knowledge of God, his ability to please God, and thus His only hope of redemption must come from God.

5. **UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION (TULIP)** — Despite mankind's sin, God has chosen *in Christ*, before the creation of the world, a people, which no man can number out of every group of humanity, to be holy and blameless in his sight, not because of righteous things they had done (or would do), but because of his free mercy grace, and the good pleasure of his sovereign will.

6. **PARTICULAR REDEMPTION (TULIP)** — Jesus, the Redeemer of God's elect, in accordance with the will of the Father, took a complete human nature as the representative substitute of God's elect. He lived his life faithfully as a covenant Son, and they bore the penalty for the broken covenant with Adam in his suffering and atoning death. Jesus did not suffer and die for mankind in the abstract, to make their salvation *possible*, but particularly and personally for individual men and women, boys and girls, in order to save them to the uttermost.

7. **IRRESISTIBLE GRACE (TULIP)** — Those whom God has chosen, and for whom Christ died, are made personal partakers of the saving grace of God through a transformative work initiated and carried forth powerfully by the sovereign working of God the Holy Spirit. All of man's actions toward God are *responses* to God's prior grace, yet the meaningfulness and necessity of human responses are hereby established, not negated.

8. **THE RESTORATION AND RENEWAL OF HUMAN NATURE** — By God's sovereign grace believers are restored in Christ to their proper relationship with their Creator, and are renewed and transformed in their own nature after the image of Christ, the last Adam. They are also restored to their covenantal callings as rulers and priests in Christ.

9. **THE BODY OF CHRIST AND ITS MEMBERS** — The salvation of individuals is part of God's corporate redemptive work in the formation of the Church, which is the body of Christ, the new humanity, the pilot project for "the new heavens and the new earth." To the Church, Jesus has given a governmental structure ("presbyterianism" = rule by elders), pastoral authority, worship and ordinances, and discipline.

10. **PRESUPPOSITIONALISM** — The existence of God and the truthfulness and sufficiency of the Bible must provide the foundation for Christian thinking and action in every area of life.

11. **PRESERVATION AND PERSEVERANCE (TULIP)** — Those to whom God has given eternal life for Christ's sake can never perish, for no one can snatch them out of the Father's hand. Yet they are kept by means of a patiently enduring faith and obedience — even in the face of troubles, hardships, and persecutions.

12. **A GLORIOUS FUTURE** — The Christian lives in hope which rests upon the faithfulness of our sovereign God, who will accomplish his good purposes for those who love God and have been called according to his purpose — in their individual lives (first, "heaven" and, in the end, bodily resurrection), in the remainder of human history, and for all eternity ("the new heavens and the new earth").