

1 timothy

Home Group Discussion Guide

A Case Against Unconditional Election

1 Timothy 4:10

ICEBREAKER: What's the best way to earn another person's respect?

OVERVIEW: Ideas have consequences, and if you have wrong ideas about God, you will live and behave in a way that is sinful and harmful. Many Christians believe in Unconditional Election, which can be both harmful to your relationship with God and people. According to the Calvinist doctrine of Unconditional Election, God elects or chooses to save some individuals based solely on His will and not on anything that the individual does. It's not based on their faith, and obviously not on their good deeds; it's based on His sovereign, mysterious will. In this study we will dig deeper into the doctrine of Unconditional Election and discover if there is a better, more Biblical way of understanding salvation.

1. Read 1 Timothy 4:10. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. In view of 1 Timothy 4:10, how can God be the Savior of all people and at the same time only be the Savior of believers?
3. Briefly define each of the Five Points of Calvinism.
 - Total Depravity
 - Unconditional Election
 - Limited Atonement
 - Irresistible Grace
 - Perseverance of the Saints
4. Are you a 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5-point Calvinist?
5. What are the potential dangers of believing in Unconditional Election? If you believe in Unconditional Election, how can these dangers be avoided?

6. Read 1 Timothy 2:3-4, 2 Peter 3:9, and Matthew 18:14. In light of these verses, is it possible that God unconditionally chooses to send some people to hell?
7. If God wants everyone to be saved, does this mean that all are saved (universalism)? Explain.
8. Read 2 Corinthians 5:15, 1 Timothy 2:5-6, and 1 John 2:2. Who did Christ die to save? In light of these verses, is it possible that Christ died to save all, but did not make salvation available to all?
9. Read John 3:16. What does this verse teach about the character and nature of God? In view of God's character, is it possible that He created some people for the sole purpose of sending them to hell?
10. Read John 3:16-18. What must you do to be saved? In light of this passage, is salvation conditional or unconditional?
11. Read Romans 8:29-30 and 1 Peter 1:1-2. According to these verses, how did God predestine (choose in advance) the individuals who would be saved and those who would not be saved?
12. For Further Study: Read Romans 9. How do you reconcile this chapter with the many verses that teach (1) God loves all, (2) God wants to save all, (3) Christ died to save all, (4) and people are saved by faith?

The Last Word: God is the Savior of all people and particularly of all believers. He wants everyone to be saved, but has chosen to save only those who believe. Therefore we must share the gospel with as many as possible so that they can have a chance to believe.