



The Big Questions

- Are humans sinners? How sinful are we?
- Does God alone decide whom and how to save? Did He decide this from eternity?
- Was Christ's death on the cross necessary for our salvation? Who benefits from it?
- How do sinners enjoy the benefits of Christ's salvation already now in this life?
- Will man, once saved, always be saved? Can we be sure we are going to heaven?

Three Different Approaches

1. LOTUS - Pelagianism, Paganism.

- L: we are like Adam, as created: not sinners.
- O: Our father is (God) . . . (An idol/the devil)
- T: Christ is the moral man, a good example to all.
- U: You decide to improve your life morally.
- S: Service to our neighbor is our calling. We have no fixed morality that demands service to God.

Three Different Approaches

2. DAISY - Arminian (Christian) theology.

- Decision of man necessary.
- Atonement of Christ universal.
- Impossibility of saving oneself; Christ is necessary.
- Sufficient free will to resist God's grace.
- You can fall away.

Three Different Approaches

2. LILAC - Arminian (Christian) theology.

- Limited Depravity.
- I chose Christ/elect God.
- Limitless Atonement.
- Arrestible Grace.
- Carnal Security.

Three Different Approaches

3. TULIP - Reformed Christian theology.

- Total Depravity.
- Unconditional Election.
- Limited Atonement.
- Irresistible Grace.
- Preservation (or Perseverance) of Saints.

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Are Men Sinners? How Sinful?

T: TOTAL DEPRAVITY, Eph. 2:1-3.

- Man is spiritually dead by nature.
 - Man's will is a slave to sin.
 - Man can do nothing that truly pleases God.
 - Man is by himself unable to repent, believe, or do anything to be saved.
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Are Men Sinners? How Sinful?

- Lotus: man is not a sinner; he is LIKE Adam, as he was created.
 - Daisy: Man is a sinner; it is IMPOSSIBLE for him to save himself; BUT he can choose to be saved.
 - Lilac: Man is a sinner; he has LIMITED depravity. His will is not sinful; he can choose good.
 - Tulip: man and the nature of man are TOTALLY depraved.
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Does God alone decide whom and how to save?

U: UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION

- Before the world began, God chose some to salvation, Eph. 1:12.
 - He chose particular individuals, Romans 9:11-13.
 - He did not choose because we would believe and obey, but in order that we would, 2 Thess. 2:13f.
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Does God alone decide whom and how to save?

- Lotus: irrelevant question.
 - Daisy: God chose to salvation all who would DECIDE for Christ.
 - Lilac: I choose God as my God, and choose Christ as my savior.
 - Tulip: God unconditionally chose certain men to salvation in Christ, and would give them faith by which they would experience salvation.
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Was Christ's death necessary for salvation? Who benefits?

L: LIMITED ATONEMENT

- Christ's death was ATONEMENT; He paid the debt for sin in order to reconcile us to God.
 - Christ died, not to make salvation possible for each, but to make it certain for His people.
 - ▶ Else His death can not be considered atonement.
 - ▶ He died for all men, 1 Timothy 2:4-6 - His elect are found in all classes of society.
 - ▶ He died for the world, John 3:16 - the universe; but not for every human - only those humans in whom He works faith benefit.
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Was Christ's death necessary for salvation? Who benefits?

- Lotus: Not necessary. Christ is The moral man, a good example.
 - Daisy: Christ's death made universal Atonement - every person has a chance at salvation.
 - Lilac: Christ's death was Limitless in its atonement.
 - Tulip: Christ's death atoned for sin; it was Limited, not in power, but in regards to those for whom He died.
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How do sinners enjoy the benefits of Christ's salvation already now?

I: IRRESISTIBLE GRACE

- God cause us to be reborn, hear Him speak to us, have faith, know we are righteous, and live a godly life. Ephesians 2:1-10.
 - He does not invite us to enjoy these graces IF we want, or offer them to us IF we accept, but His Spirit works them in those whom He elected, for whom Christ died.
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How do sinners enjoy the benefits of Christ's salvation already now?

- Lotus: Whatever salvation is, we do it ourselves; and it does not mean enjoying Christ's benefits.
 - Daisy: God's Spirit encourages us to know and believe and accept Christ, but man is able to resist God's grace.
 - Lilac: Same as Daisy; God's grace is "arrestible" by man.
 - Tulip: God works His grace man's heart with such power that man cannot resist; God so renews man's heart and soul that man desires this grace.
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Will man, once saved, always be saved? Can we be sure we are going to heaven?

P: PRESERVATION OF SAINTS

- God preserves His people in grace. We will not fall away. John 3:16. Romans 8:29f.
 - God preserves His people in holiness. We might fall into sin, but will repent and be restored.
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Will man, once saved, always be saved? Can we be sure we are going to heaven?

- Lotus: although not "saved," a good man lives to serve his neighbor, humanity, and creation.
 - Daisy: Saved men must continually decide to believe and obey, and are able to fall away.
 - Lilac: saved man lives in carnal security; he knows he is going to heaven, but might live in a way not pleasing to God.
 - Tulip: God PRESERVES His people, whom He has made SAINTS.
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Conclusion.

- LOTUS ignores the need for salvation.
 - DAISY and LILAC understand the need for salvation, and for Christ as savior, but speak of God giving man a responsibility in obtaining his salvation.
 - TULIP understands that man cannot play any part in his salvation; but once saved, he lives a life of thankful obedience.
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