

Sermon Discussion Guide:

Election and Evangelism

Sunday, November 13, 2022

Scripture: **Acts 13:48–52**

Series: **The Spirit & The Church**

OVERVIEW

The doctrine of election—often associated with Calvinism and other reformed traditions—stirs up controversy and can even bring discomfort to those who ascribe to it. The doctrine emphasizes God's sovereignty in His plan to save sinners. Though corruptions of this teaching can lead to passivity in spreading the gospel, **the doctrine of election actually empowers our evangelism.**

CORROBORATING TEXTS

Luke 2:10, Matthew 10:14, Matthew 5:11-12, Ephesians 1:3-14, Colossians 3:12, Romans 9:14-26, Acts 1:8, Romans 10:14

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think Calvinism sometimes gets a bad rap?
 - a. In what sense might this bad reputation be justified?
 - b. In what sense is Calvinism and the doctrine of election typically misunderstood?
2. What is the scriptural basis for the doctrine of election?
3. What are the problems with the argument that election isn't fair?
 - a. *[Fairness alone would result in all of us being justly condemned; Romans 3:9-20]*
 - b. *[We desperately need grace and mercy to save us from what we fairly deserve; Romans 9:14-26]*
4. How can this doctrine that emphasizes God's sovereignty in salvation (i.e., a work of God alone) actually empower our evangelism?
 - a. *[We are commanded by God to evangelize; Acts 1:8]*
 - b. *[God chooses us to participate in and execute His will; Romans 10:14]*
 - c. *[We cannot fail if we're faithful in seeking His will; Ephesians 1:3-14]*
5. Share ways in which this week's passage, the doctrine of election, and Joe's sermon may have freshly motivated you to evangelize and be assured in your salvation.