

Depravity & Election in John

INTRODUCTION

The gospel of John is the Mount Everest of the doctrines of grace. In it, we catch a glimpse of the doctrines of grace from the highest vantage point, from the perspective of eternity. In this lecture, Dr. Lawson introduces a study on the loftiness of the doctrines of grace in the gospel of John by starting with the doctrines of total depravity and unconditional election.

LEARNING GOALS

When you have finished this lesson, you should be able to:

- Identify where the doctrine of total depravity is taught in the gospel of John
- Identify where the doctrine of unconditional election is taught in the gospel of John

KEY IDEAS

- The gospel of John provides us with multiple ways of thinking about our natural spiritual condition in terms of spiritual blindness, alienation, inability, and enslavement.
- The emphasis on moral inability in the gospel of John likewise underscores the doctrine of election as the sovereign and free initiative of God in eternity past.
- The group of people that God elects in eternity past is the same group of people for whom Christ intercedes as Mediator before the Father.

REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Before the Video

What Do You Think?

Take a moment to answer the following questions. They will prepare you for the lecture.

- What is your favorite gospel account of the life of Jesus Christ? Why?
- How is the gospel of John unlike the gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke?
- How would you describe your relationship to sin before you were converted?

Scripture Reading

Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has set his seal.” So they said to him, “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?” Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.”

—John 6:26–29

- How is the food that the Son of Man gives described? Does this connect in any way to a doctrine of grace? How does one receive this food?

During the Video

Answer the following questions while you watch the video. They will guide you through the lecture.

Spiritually Unable

0:00–16:35

- John 3:3 indicates that Jesus answered Nicodemus before Nicodemus had even asked a question. Why is this significant?
- What are the two metaphors used of the Holy Spirit in John 3?

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- What phrase commonly precedes Jesus' statements of great importance that often teach the doctrines of grace?
 - What does "world" refer to in John 15:18?

Before the Beginning

16:35-24:48

- "He who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens." What, according to Dr. Lawson, does Jesus' figure of speech here communicate about Him?
- What are the various ways that Dr. Lawson identified in which Christ intercedes on behalf of the elect?

After the Video

Answer the following questions after you have finished the lecture. They will help you identify and summarize the major points.

- How did Dr. Lawson describe Nicodemus' spiritual condition? Why?
- What are the various ways Dr. Lawson described the spiritual state of an unbeliever throughout this lecture? Which do you consider the most powerful description of this spiritual state? Why?
- How does the good shepherd discourse in John 10 teach the doctrine of election?

PRAYER

Commit what you have learned from God's Word in this lesson to prayer.

- Praise God for His power to give life to the spiritually dead.
- Confess your frequent return to sin as a slave master from which you've been freed.
- Thank God for the freedom from sin that you have in Christ through the Spirit.
- Ask God to nurture you and lead you by Christ, our Good Shepherd.