

Growth group discussion questions

“TULIP”

Personal preparation **BEFORE** the growth group meets:-

In the early 1600's in Holland an important theological debate took place around some key teachings of the Bible regarding God's sovereignty and human will in salvation. As a result of this debate, five core theological issues became known through the acrostic TULIP. The five truths, as they are stated in order to form the acrostic TULIP, are: Total depravity, Unconditional election, Limited atonement, Irresistible grace, and Perseverance of the saints. We're going to undertake a whirlwind tour of all 5! Don't forget to smell the tulips!

Consider each of the questions below in light of the indicated Bible passages.

Preliminary question:

Do you think people have free will to choose to accept or reject Christ and the gospel? In what ways is human will free and not free?

(Psalm 51:5; Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 3:9-18; Ephesians 2:1-3)

1) Who is responsible for your salvation? Who initiates salvation? Is it you or God? Why do you think that?
(John 6:37,44; Ephesians 2:8-10)

2) Did you choose God or did God choose you for salvation?
Does God's choice depend on his knowledge of who will and will not respond to the gospel?
(John 15:16; Acts 13:48; Romans 8:28, 9:13 and 9:16-17)

3) Did Christ die for all?
Did he die to save everyone or to save particular people?
(Matthew 1:21b; John 10:14-15; Ephesians 5:25b-27)

4) Can you resist the will of God? Can you resist the will of Satan?
Under what circumstances?
(Isaiah 46:9-10 and 55:11; John 1:13, 3:19 and 5:21; Romans 1:18; Ephesians 2:2-3; 1 John 1:5-10)

5) Can you lose your salvation? Why or why not?
Under what circumstances?
(John 8:39 and 10:27-30; Romans 8:37-39; 1 John 5:12-13)

WHEN the growth group meets:-

a. In your group time, discuss your answers and how the Bible passages lead you to your conclusions.

Note! The goal in our group time is NOT to recreate the disputing of the 1620's! Deal graciously with each other.

b. Have a go at expanding on what each truth might mean:-

TULIP: Total depravity, Unconditional election, Limited atonement, Irresistible grace, and Perseverance of the saints

Pray together.