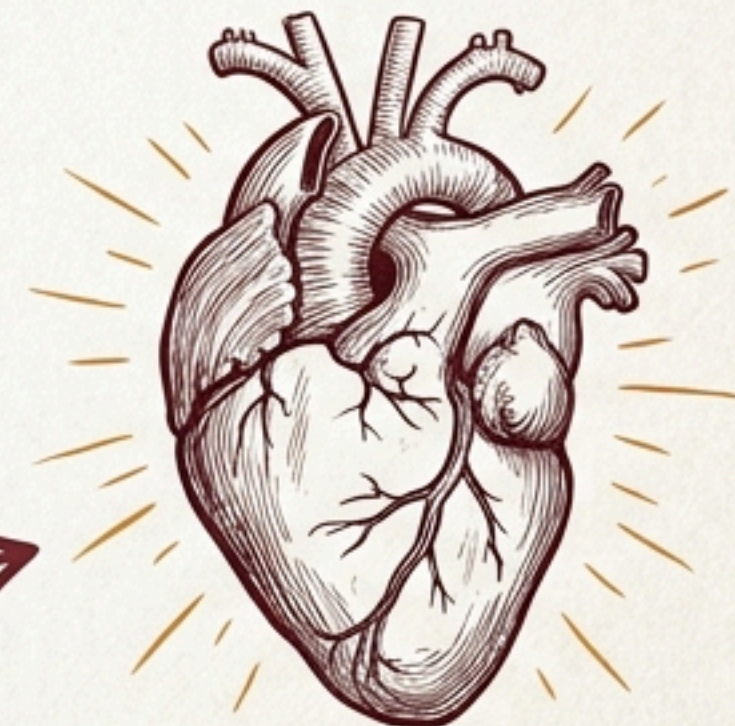
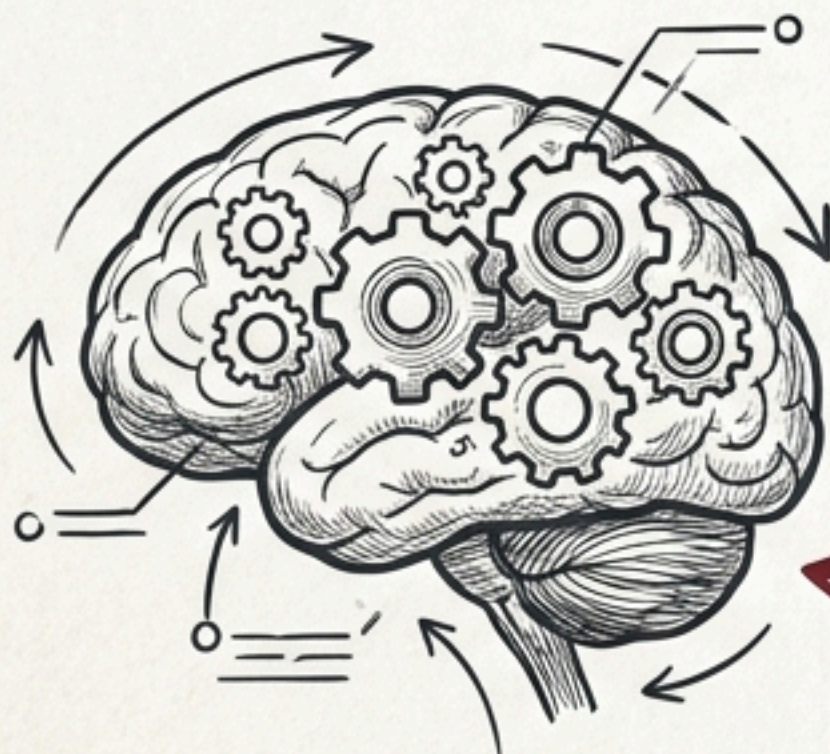
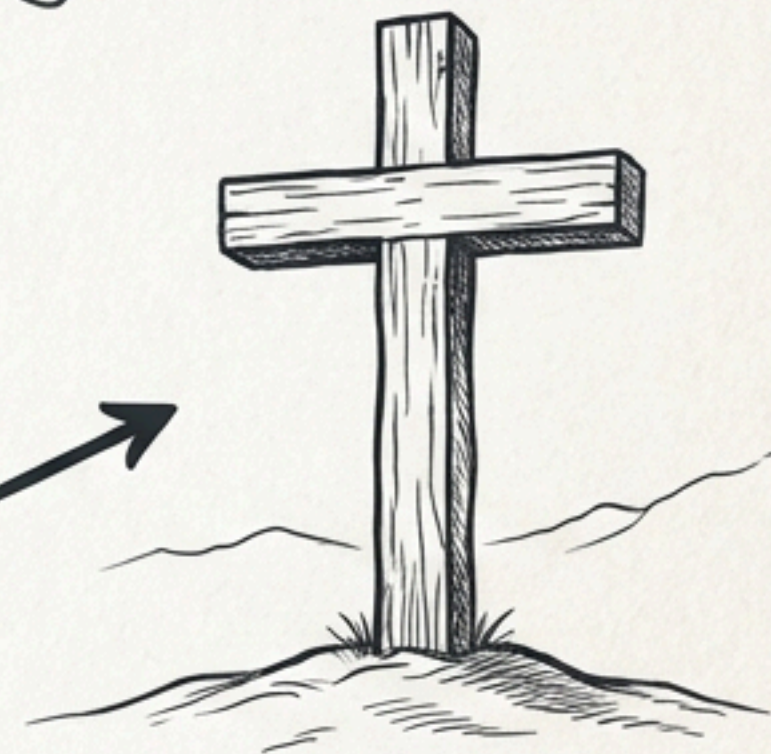


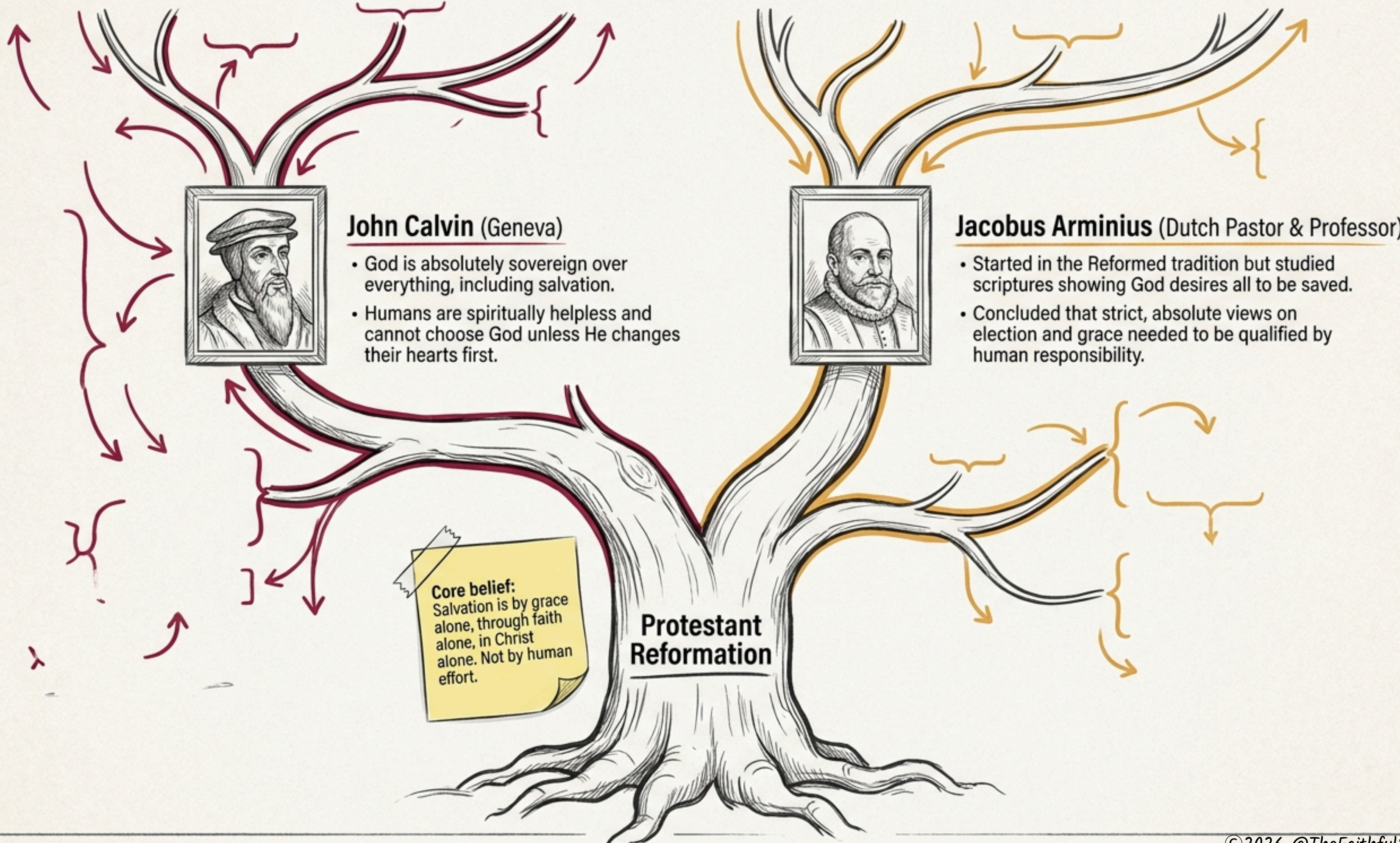
Calvinism vs. Arminianism EXPLAINED

God's Sovereignty vs. Free Will

A visual guide to Protestant theology's greatest debate.



& VS



John Calvin (Geneva)

- God is absolutely sovereign over everything, including salvation.
- Humans are spiritually helpless and cannot choose God unless He changes their hearts first.



Jacobus Arminius (Dutch Pastor & Professor)

- Started in the Reformed tradition but studied scriptures showing God desires all to be saved.
- Concluded that strict, absolute views on election and grace needed to be qualified by human responsibility.

Core belief:
Salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. Not by human effort.

Protestant Reformation

The Remonstrance (1610)

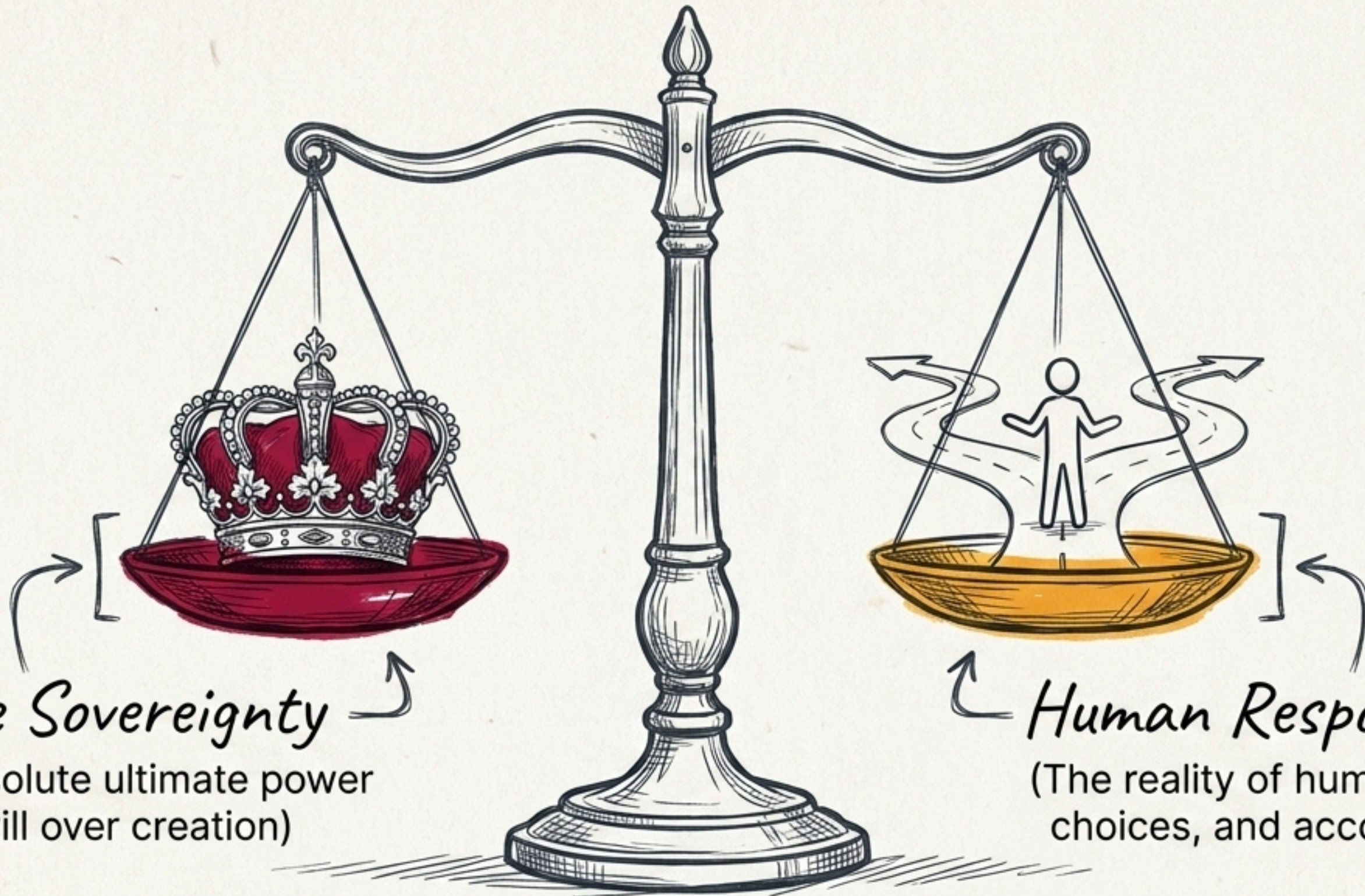


Written by followers of Arminius. A respectful document targeting strict Calvinist views on election, atonement, grace, and falling away.

The Synod of Dort (1618-1619)



A major Reformed church council convened to respond to the Remonstrants. They firmly rejected the Arminian views and codified their own five points—creating the famous acronym T.U.L.I.P.



Divine Sovereignty

(God's absolute ultimate power and will over creation)

Human Responsibility

(The reality of human free will, choices, and accountability)

The debate is a complex attempt to reconcile these two truths. Both sides believe the same Bible and the same Jesus, but they weight this scale differently.

Point 1: The Problem of Sin

Total Depravity

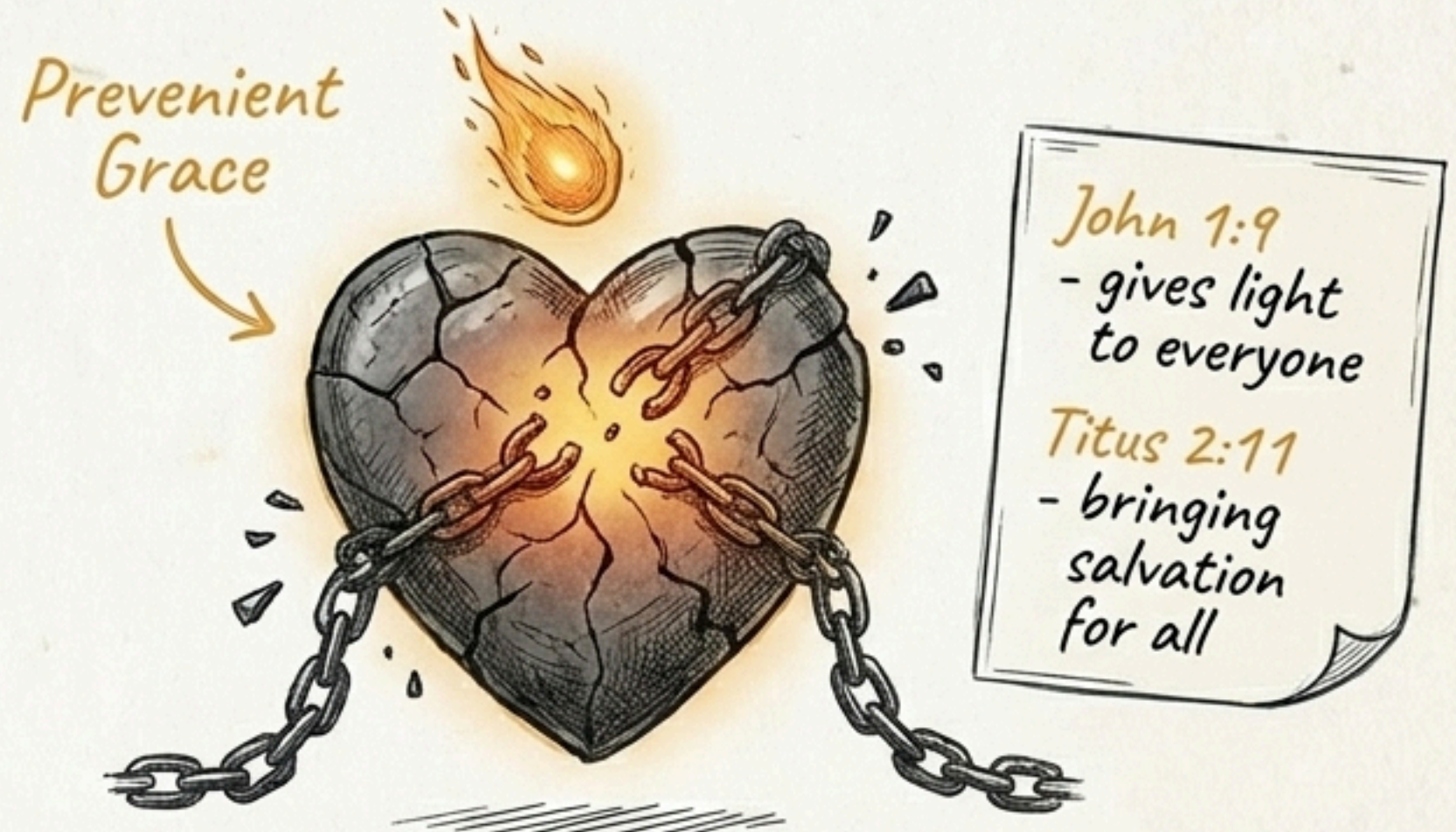


Eph 2:1
- dead in trespasses

Rom 3:10-11
- no one seeks for God

Humans are corrupted in mind, emotion, and will. They are spiritually dead and completely unable to choose God on their own.

Total Depravity freed by Grace



Prevenient Grace

John 1:9
- gives light to everyone

Titus 2:11
- bringing salvation for all

Humans are totally depraved, but Christ's "prevenient" grace restores free will to all people, enabling them to freely choose or reject God.

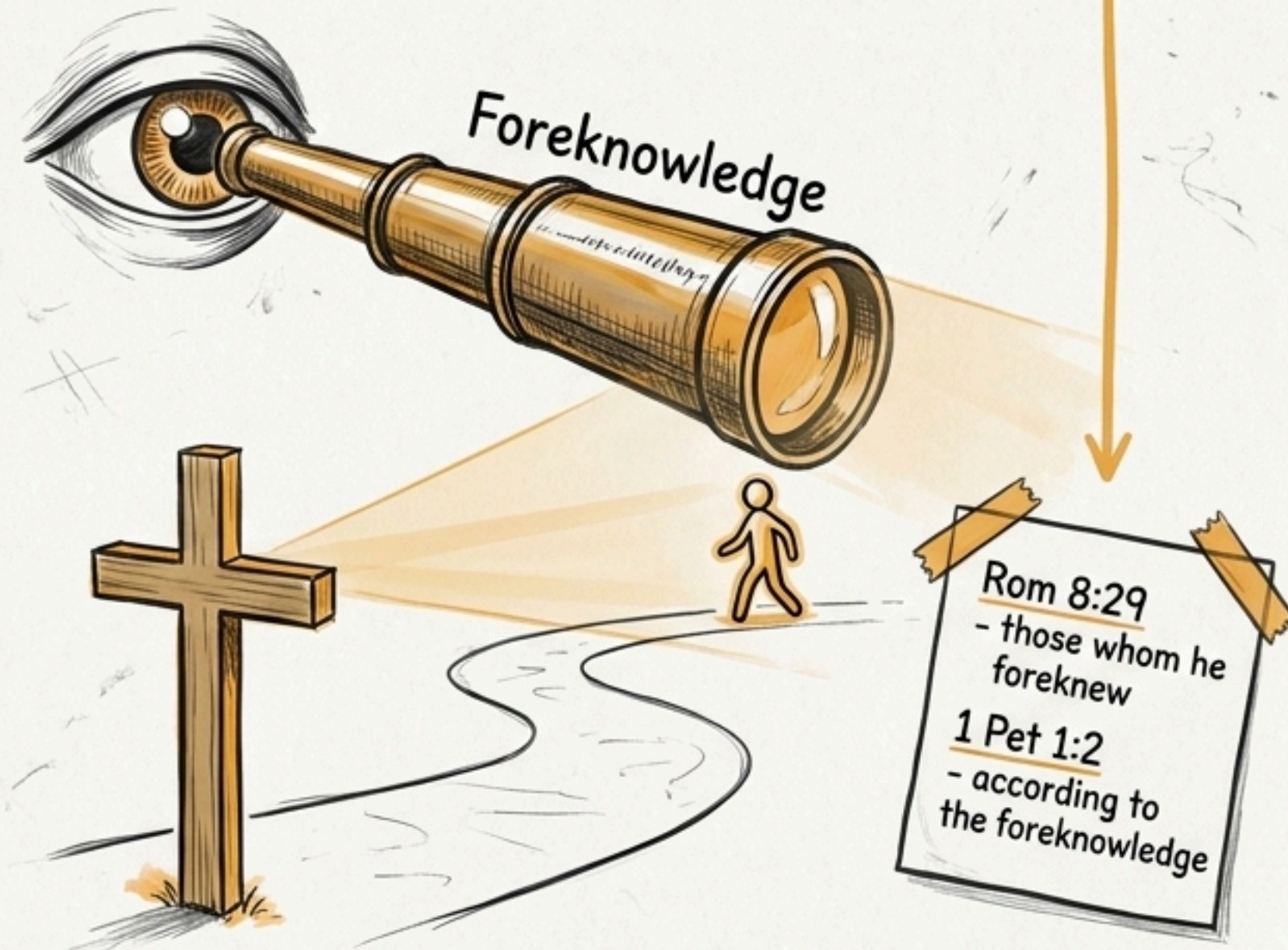
Point 2: The Basis of God's Choice

Unconditional Election



God's choice to save individuals is based solely on His own sovereign will and good pleasure, not on any foreseen faith or merit.

Conditional Election



God's choice to save is based on His foreknowledge of who will freely believe in Jesus Christ. Election is conditional upon foreseen faith.

Point 3: For Whom Did Christ Die?

Limited (Particular) Atonement

Matt 1:21
- save his people
John 10:11
- lays down his life for the sheep



Jesus died specifically to save the elect. His death fully paid for their sins and guarantees the salvation of those specific individuals.

Universal Atonement

1 John 2:2
- sins of the whole world
John 3:16-17
- loved the world



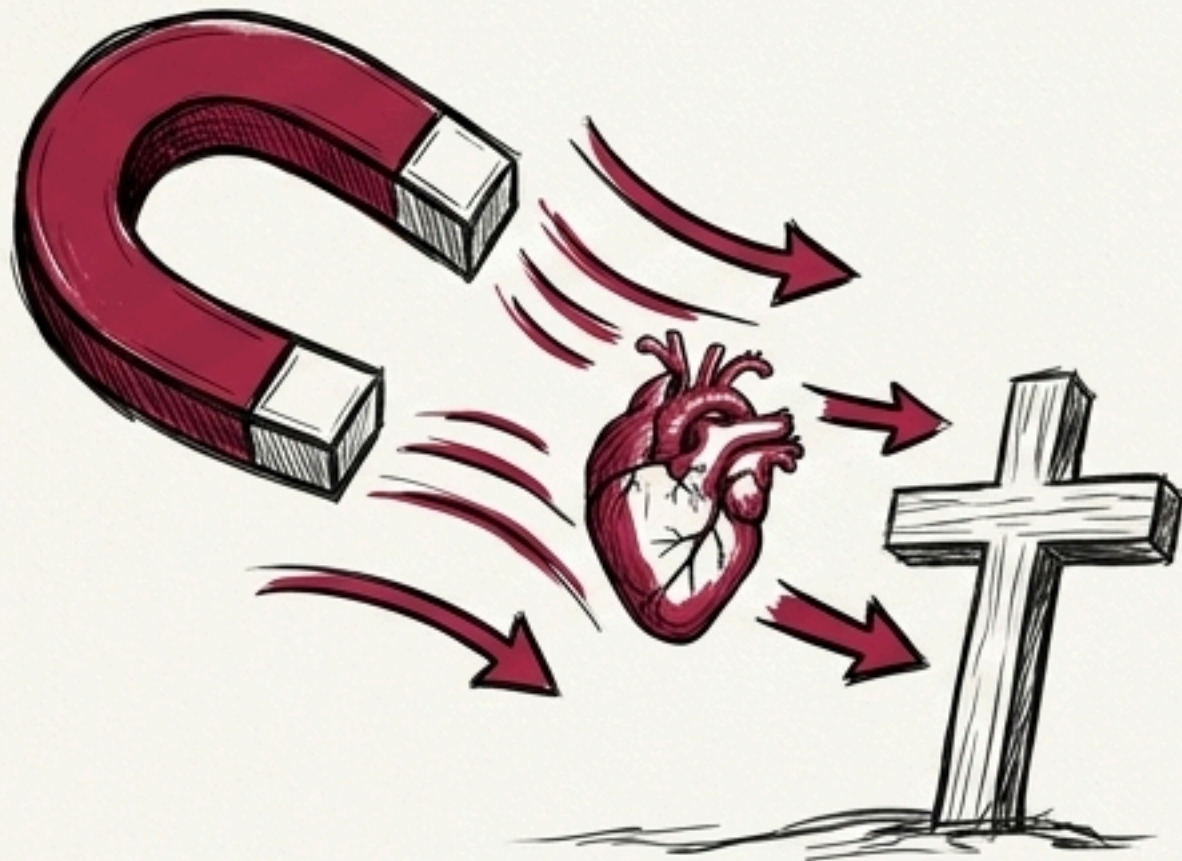
Christ's death was for every single person, making salvation a genuine possibility for all. However, its saving effect is only applied to those who believe.

Point 4: The Application of Grace

Irresistible Grace

John 6:37 - all that the Father gives me will come

Ezek 36:26 - remove the heart of stone



The Holy Spirit gives the elect new spiritual life, changing their heart and overcoming their resistance to ensure they come to faith.

Resistible Grace



Matt 23:37 - and you were not willing

Rev 3:20 - behold I stand at the door and knock

The call of the Holy Spirit is a drawing influence, not an overpowering force. It can be freely resisted and rejected by human free will.

Point 5: The Security of the Believer

Perseverance of the Saints

John 10:28-29
- no one will snatch them out

Phil 1:6
- will bring it to completion

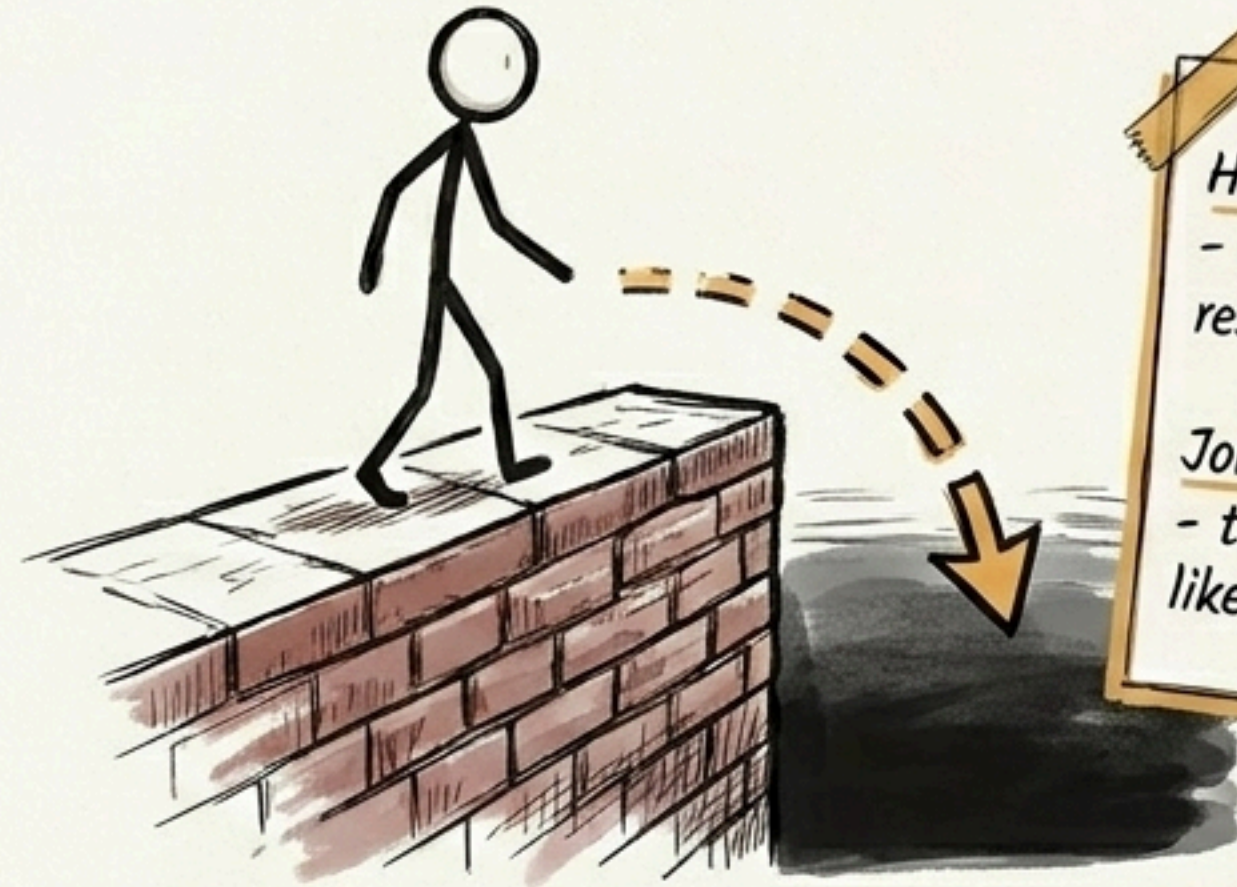


The elect will certainly persevere in faith to the end. They are eternally secure because salvation is completely upheld by God's power.

Conditional Salvation







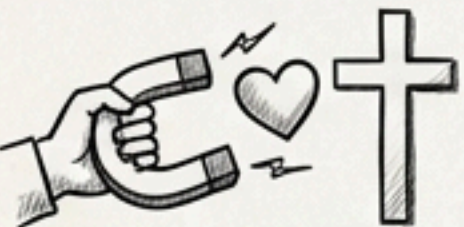



Heb 6:4-6
- impossible to restore them again

John 15:6
- thrown away like a branch



Believers are kept by God's power through faith. Because faith is required, a genuine believer can theoretically abandon faith and forfeit salvation.

The Master Matrix: TULIP vs. The Remonstrance

Calvinism (Synod of Dort)	Arminianism (1610 Remonstrance)
 <p>Total Depravity: Spiritually dead; cannot choose God.</p>	 <p>Depravity + Preventive Grace: Depraved, but Grace restores free will to choose.</p>
 <p>Unconditional Election: Chosen based on God's sovereign will alone.</p>	 <p>Conditional Election: Chosen based on God's foreknowledge of faith.</p>
 <p>Limited Atonement: Christ died effectively for the elect only.</p>	 <p>Universal Atonement: Christ died for all; applied only to believers.</p>
 <p>Irresistible Grace: The Holy Spirit overcomes resistance to ensure faith.</p>	 <p>Resistible Grace: God's drawing influence can be freely rejected.</p>
 <p>Perseverance of the Saints: The elect are eternally secure in God's power.</p>	 <p>Conditional Salvation: Kept by faith; possible to walk away and forfeit salvation.</p>

Navigating the Tension



- Study scripture diligently.
- Hold your views with conviction.
- Extend grace and charity to brothers and sisters who interpret it differently.

1 Thessalonians 5:21
Test everything;
hold fast what is
good.

Where do you stand? Calvinist, Arminian, or somewhere in between?