

Calvinism – Hyper-Calvinism

“An exaggerated or imbalanced type of Reformed theology associated with Strict and Particular Baptists of English origin and with Dutch-American Reformed groups. Originating in the 18th century, it has always been the theology of a minority, which today is extremely small. It is a system of theology framed to exalt the honor and glory of God and does so by acutely minimizing the moral and spiritual responsibility of sinners. . . It emphasizes irresistible grace to such an extent that there appears to be no real need to evangelize; furthermore, Christ may be offered only to the elect.”

—— Sinclair Ferguson, et. al., editors, *The New Dictionary of Theology* (InterVarsity Press, 1988), s.v. Hyper-Calvinism, 324.

“Hyper-Calvinism. This is a spirit that militates against evangelism and the free offer of the gospel. It has its roots in High-Calvinism but goes beyond it. Many High-Calvinists would still hold to the free offer of the gospel - that you should offer the gospel to everyone even though Christ did not die for everyone. Hyper-Calvinism holds that one must not say “Christ died for you” lest one should not be telling the truth. The most that the hyper-Calvinist feels that he can do is to say “Christ died for sinners” and leave the rest to the Holy Spirit. Hyper-Calvinism does not essentially differ from high-Calvinism except in actual practice, which is why I define Hyper-Calvinism as a spirit.”

—— R. T. Kendall, *Stand Up and Be Counted* (London: Hodder and Sloughton, 1984), 120.

“... [Hypercalvinists] made no distinction between the secret and revealed will of God, and tried to deduce the duty of men from what it taught concerning the secret, eternal decrees of God. This led to the notion that grace must only be offered to those for whom it was intended . . . So hyper-Calvinism led its adherents to hold that evangelism was unnecessary.”

—— Peter Toon, *The Emergence of Hyper-Calvinism in English Non-Conformity, 1689-1765* (London: The Olive Tree, 1967), 145.

“that school of supralapsarian Five Point Calvinism which so stresses the sovereignty of God by overemphasizing the secret over the revealed will and eternity over time, that it minimizes the responsibility of Man, notably with respect to the denial of the word offer' in relation to the preaching of the Gospel of a finished and limited atonement, thus undermining the universal duty of sinners to believe savingly with assurance that the Lord Jesus Christ died for them.”

—— Curt Daniel, *Hyper-Calvinism and John Gill* (Unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, University of Edinburgh, 1983), 767.

“with evangelism for supposedly Calvinistic reasons . . . the only real and tangible thing which differentiates the Hyper from the High-Calvinist is the word offer.”

—— Daniel, 767.

“Hyper-Calvinism is the denial that God in the preaching of the gospel calls everyone who hears the preaching to repent and believe. It is the denial that the church should call everyone in the preaching. It is the denial that the unregenerated have a duty to repent and believe. It manifests itself in the practice of the preacher's addressing the call of the gospel, “repent and believe on Christ crucified,” only to those in his audience who show signs of regeneration and, thereby, of election, namely, some conviction of sin and some interest in salvation.”

—— David J. Engelsma, *Hyper-Calvinism & the Call of the Gospel*, (Grand Rapids: Reformed Free Publishing Association, 1994), 15-16.

“We deny duty faith and duty repentance - these terms suggesting that it is every man's duty spiritually and savingly to repent and believe. We deny also that there is any capability in man by nature to any spiritual good whatever. So that we reject the doctrine that man in a state of nature should be exhorted to believe in or turn to God.”

—— Articles of Faith of the Gospel Standard Aid and Poor Relief Societies, (Leicester, England: Oldham & Manton Ltd., n.d.).

“The definition I am proposing outlines five varieties of hyper-Calvinism, listed here in a declining order, from the worst kind to a less extreme variety (which some might prefer to class as “ultra-high Calvinism”):

A hyper-Calvinist is someone who either:

1) Denies that the gospel call applies to all who hear,

2) OR Denies that faith is the duty of every sinner,

3) OR Denies that the gospel makes any “offer” of Christ, salvation, or mercy to the non-elect (or denies that the offer of divine mercy is free and universal),

4) OR Denies that there is such a thing as “common grace,”

5) OR Denies that God has any sort of love for the non-elect.

All five varieties of hyper-Calvinism undermine evangelism or twist the gospel message.”

—— Phil Johnson, A Primer on Hyper-Calvinism.



Most Calvinists reject as deplorable the following hyper-Calvinistic and destructive beliefs:

1. That God is the author of sin and of evil
2. That men have no will of their own, and secondary causes are of no effect
3. That the number of the elect at any time may be known by men
4. That it is wrong to evangelize
5. That assurance of election must be sought prior to repentance and faith
6. That men who have once sincerely professed belief are saved regardless of what they later do
7. That God has chosen some races of men and has rejected others
8. That the children of unbelievers dying in infancy are certainly damned
9. That God does not command everyone to repent
10. That the sacraments are not means of grace, but obstacles to salvation by faith alone.
11. That the true church is only invisible, and salvation is not connected with the visible church
12. That the Scriptures are intended to be interpreted by individuals only and not by the church.
13. That no government is to be obeyed which does not acknowledge that Jesus is the Lord, or that Biblical Law is its source of authority
14. That the grace of God does not work for the betterment of all men
15. That saving faith is equivalent to belief in the doctrine of predestination
16. That only Calvinists are Christians (Neo-gnostic Calvinism)

Website Reference: <https://www.monergism.com/topics/hyper-calvinism>