

Of Effectual Calling (John 6:44)

Baptist Confession of Faith (1689) Chapter 10, Paragraphs 1-4

Doctrine

Defining the Effectual Calling (Paragraph 1)

- In the Confession, Chapters 3 (Election), 8 (Redemption), 10 (Calling), 11 (Justification), 12 (Adoption), 13 (Sanctification), 17 (Perseverance), and 31-32 (Glorification) deal with specific elements of the *Ordo Salutis*.
- Those whom God has predestined unto life, He is pleased in His appointed and accepted time, effectually to **call**, out of that state of sin and death which they are by nature, to grace and salvation by Jesus Christ (Rom. 8:30).
- God does so by His Word and Spirit – that is, the Spirit working through the means of the proclamation of God’s **Word** (Rom. 10:17).
- In His calling, or bringing, the sinner to salvation, the Holy Spirit enlightens their minds spiritually and savingly to the understand the things of God; takes away their heart of stone, giving to them a heart of flesh; renews their wills, and by His almighty power determining them to that which is good, and effectually **drawing** them to Jesus Christ (Ezk. 36:26-37).
- Yet, those who are called come most **freely**, being made willing by His grace (Songs 1:4).

The Nature of the Effectual Calling (Paragraph 2)

- God’s calling of sinners to Himself is of God’s free and special **grace** alone – not from anything at all foreseen in man, nor from any power or agency in the creature co-working (cooperating) with His special grace (2 Tim. 1:9).
- The person is wholly passive, being **dead** in sins and trespasses, until being quickened and renewed by the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 2:14).

- Upon regeneration, the person is enabled (by the same power which raised the Lord Christ from the dead) to answer the call and embrace the **grace** offered and conveyed in it (Eph. 1:18-20).

The Extent of the Effectual Calling (Paragraphs 3-4)

- All those who are called by the Holy Spirit are brought to **salvation** in Christ Jesus.
- Elect infants dying in infancy are regenerated and saved by **Christ** through the Spirit, Who works when and where and how He pleases; so also are all other elect persons, who are incapable of being outwardly called by the ministry of the Word (Jn. 3:3-8).
- Others not elected, although called by the ministry of the Word, and who may even have some common operations of the Spirit, yet not being effectually drawn by the Father, they neither will nor **can** truly come to Christ, and therefore cannot be saved (Mt. 22:14).
- Those who are not called by the ministry of the **Word** (which is the ordinary means of the operation of the Spirit) will not be saved, though they be ever so diligent to frame their lives according to the light of nature and the law of the religion they do profess (Rom. 10:13-14).

Application:

- 1) The Free Offer of the **Gospel**: We ought to proclaim Gospel broadly, calling sinners to repentance and faith in Christ (Rom. 10:15).
- 2) Ardent **Prayer**: Prayer for the Lord’s will to be done (Mt. 6:10).
- 3) **Trust** in the Will and Work of God: We rest in the fact that it is God who saves His people (1 Cor. 3:6-7).