

Canons of Dort – 1st Head of Doctrine, Articles 12-14: Results of Your Election

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: You know **why you were elected**: God loved you. You know **why you needed to be elected**: You could not choose God. You know **how you were elected**: You were elected in Christ and given faith to receive into your soul what he did. You know **your election is unchangeable**. Today you will see **the results of your election**.

Our headings are:

The Assurance of your election: Proof

The Assurance of your election: What do you do with it

The Assurance of your election: How to teach it

Our goals are: **That being assured of your election in Jesus, you will bear fruits of that election for the glory of Christ and the good of your neighbor.**

The Assurance of Your Election: Proof

Article 12: The Assurance of Election: Assurance of their eternal and unchangeable election to salvation **is given to the chosen in due time**, though by **various stages** and in **differing measure**. Such assurance comes not by inquisitive searching into the hidden and deep things of God, but by **noticing within themselves, with spiritual joy and holy delight, the unmistakable fruits of election** pointed out in God's Word—fruits such as a true faith in Christ, a childlike fear of God, a godly sorrow for their sins, a hunger and thirst for righteousness, and so on.

1. God gives you an objective assurance that you are the elect of God.

Our Arminian brothers don't believe you can have assurance that you are elect.

But ignoring this doctrine puts them in an uncertain position. **They have to wonder and worry.** Every time they sin, they have to think: "*Am I elect or not?*"

But God gives objective assurance.

(What good would election do for you if you didn't know you had it?)

Here is the direct letter of clarity! Jesus said it!

John 6: 37 "All that the **Father gives Me will come to Me**, and the one who comes to Me **I will by no means cast out.** [39] "This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me **I should lose nothing**, but should raise it up at the last day.

Do you see any uncertainty in these two verses? There is no doubt the people who were given to Christ by his Father in the *Covenant of Redemption* will come to him.

More "by no means," (V37) is an expression of double certainty. It means "never, never." God will not and cannot cast out any of the ones he has given to his Son. They can never be lost.

Look how Apostle Paul expresses this objective assurance.

2Timothy 1:12 ...for **I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep** what I have committed to Him until that Day.

Furthermore, **"Do you love God?"** Love is seen in keeping God's law. **If you have the true desire and indeed do keep God's law, you are the elect.** That is the objective reality of your election! If doesn't matter if others believe you or not!

John 14:21 "He who has **My commandments and keeps them**, it is he who loves Me...

Calvin: "It must be held to be a universally acknowledged point, that no man is a Christian who does not **feel some special love for righteousness.**"

2. God gives you a subjective assurance you are elect of God.

God causes you to feel the fruits of assurance in your heart. His **Holy Spirit works with your spirit to convince you.**

You **don't need a dream!**

Romans 8:16 **The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.**

God gives you true faith in Christ. The more you hear God's Word preached, the stronger will be your faith. **God gives you a godly sorrow for sins. God gives you a desire for righteousness.**

3. Your assurance of your election comes by various stages and in various measures.

One gains great assurance by 25 years of age, others at 75.

More you rely on the Lord, the stronger will be your election confidence.

Isaiah 50:10 "Who among you fears the LORD?" Who obeys the voice of His Servant? Who walks in darkness And has no light? **Let him trust in the name of the LORD** And rely upon his God.

No one perfectly fears God or obeys the Lord. Some trees bear less fruits than others, but if they are good trees, they will bear some fruits. The trees must draw from the waters of life!

So if you find yourself sinning, repent! Don't worry about your election. You will become more obedient and trusting as you grow as a Christian. The relatively new Christian might not be as sure of his election, but he gets more and more assured over time.

But here's a warning: Be careful not to condemn people as non-elect if they aren't as spiritual as you.

The Assurance of Your Election: What do you do with it

Article 13: The Fruit of This Assurance: In their awareness and assurance of this election, God's children daily find greater cause to **humble themselves** before God, to **adore the fathomless** depth of divine mercies, to **cleanse themselves**, and to give fervent love in return to the One who first so greatly loved them. This is far from saying that this teaching concerning election, and reflection upon it, make God's children lax in observing his commandments or carnally self-assured. By God's just judgment this does usually happen to those who casually take for granted the grace of election or engage in idle and brazen talk about it but are unwilling to walk in the ways of the chosen.

1. Having the objective and subjective assurance of your salvation, what do you do with them?

a. You will humble yourself before God. God not only elected you, but he assured you you are elected. He did for you what you could not do for yourself!

How can you not be humble in his sight?

How can you be arrogant when you were so helpless?

1John 4:19 We love Him because He first loved us.

b. The humble man will then worship God in the most adoring way.

Who does not rejoice in being chosen for that which is good?

Who does not sing the praises of a famous person who recognizes him in a crowd?

How much more when the God of the universe picked you out from all of fallen mankind... and made you his child? What goodness!

So reflect on the awesome majesty of God as your Creator and praise him day and night.

c. You will cleanse yourself of your sins. You will daily repent of your sins that hurt your loving Savior.

1John 3:3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

d. You will truly love God in return for his loving you. That true love is seen in obedience.

1John 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.

e. You will fight to convince yourself of your salvation.

2Peter 1:5 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, 6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, 7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. 10 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble;

f. You will tell others about Jesus. You will not become lazy. You will not think preaching is unnecessary.

You will not say of the unbeliever: **If he is elect, why does he need preaching?**

Which woman doesn't want to tell the world when she loves someone and that someone loves her back?

Romans 10:14 How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!"

Are these 6 things evident in your life...and so show you are the elect of God?

2. What about those who argue the teaching of election makes one careless so he doesn't worship or serve God properly?

First, the fact people misuse a doctrine does not make the doctrine null and void.

If a doctrine is taught in the Scriptures, accept it.

You may not change it because it is misused.

God's Word is not up for negotiation.

Second, election is not a license to be sloppy.

A Christian will live a life of faithfulness and prove he is elect.

The Christian will not "*continue in sin that grace may abound.*"

He will consciously labor to prove his election.

As 2Peter 1:10 says, you must be diligent to make your calling and election sure.

You will **be humble.**

You will **worship God and learn from his Word.**

You will **repent when you sin.**

You will **fight to obey God's law.**

You will **tell others about Jesus.**

The elect will never – **and can never be stagnant.**

The elect **cannot be indifferent.**

The one who doesn't work to prove election is not saved!

3. Those that treat election with laxity can be certain of God's just judgment.

The Assurance of your Election: How to Teach it

Article 14: Teaching Election Properly: By God's wise plan, this teaching concerning divine **election has been proclaimed through the prophets.** It was proclaimed also through Christ and the Apostles.

Subsequently the proclamation was **committed to writing in the Holy Scriptures.** So also today in God's church, for which it was specifically intended, this teaching must be set forth with **a spirit of discretion,** in a godly and holy manner, at the appropriate time and place, without inquisitive searching into the ways of the Most High. This must be done for the glory of God's most holy name, and for the lively comfort of God's people.

1. In the Old Testament, prophets taught election and in the New Testament, Christ and his disciples taught election.

God wants you to teach election also. Those who avoid teaching this doctrine are defying God. Yes, some things are beyond our knowledge (Is 55:9, and Deut. 29:29) but what God has revealed, proclaim.

2. But you must teach it wisely.

a. Don't use election to scare off non-believers.

Don't start evangelizing a non-believer by telling him: "You may be the non-elect."

Election is a fact, but it is not the Gospel.

The Gospel is that Jesus came into the world to die for sinners, and those who believe that will live, guaranteed!

b. Don't not teach election callously. Election is an expression of God's love, not a sledgehammer to crush the weak. It must be taught in light of the work of Jesus.

Even for young Christians who might doubt their election, you must teach it carefully lest they be overwhelmed when they think of their sins.

It is too easy for young Christians (and old ones too) to think they are not saved because they see their sins.

3. Teach election with conviction because it is part of the Bible.

Hebrews 4:12 For the **word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword,** piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Preach election with the help of the Holy Spirit.

1Corinthians 2:4 And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but **in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,**

4. Ultimately, teach election for the glory of God.

You must not teach election to show you know more doctrines than others.

Winning the argument and losing the soul is not glorifying to God.

Conclusion:

God assures you by objective and subjective assurances he has elected you.

But assurance is not only for your personal benefit. **That assurance must bear fruit in your life for your neighbor's good and Christ's glory also.**

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ!

1. Show the fruits of humility, which leads to more sincere and faithful worship and service of God.

2. Search out your heart daily for sins and confess them to the Father through Jesus Christ.

3. Love God and learn how to keep his commands. Live like you are loved!

4. Battle in your soul, using God's Word and Spirit to prove to yourself you are the elect of God.

5. Tell others about Jesus, for this is how God works out election.

Finally: God sincerely extends his love to anyone who will hear and receive it. If you are not a Christian, will you accept God's offer of love today? He sent his Son to live and die as a substitute for sinners.