

**Did the Chicken or the Egg Come First?  
Is Calvinism's Take on *Total Depravity* Biblical**

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Lunch with Niemelä

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**INTRODUCTION**

**Calvinism's Five Points** (never stated by Calvin himself, but only by those claiming to follow him)

<b>T</b> = Total Depravity (Inability)	Man is dead, totally incapable of believing
<b>U</b> = Unconditional Election	God randomly picked who would (would not) be saved
<b>L</b> = Limited Atonement	Jesus only died for those God picked for salvation
<b>I</b> = Irresistible Grace	God irresistibly causes all (whom He picked) to believe
<b>P</b> = Perseverance of Saints	All true believers persevere to end in faith/good works

**A major problem with TULIP theology is that it is really \_\_\_\_\_ theology**

**The Calvinist take on total depravity reverses the Biblical sequence of events**

Clip from R. C. Sproul, "If there's one phrase that captures the essence of Reformed theology [Calvinism], it is the little phrase, "Regeneration precedes faith."

**Did the chicken or the egg come first? John 6:47**

**JOHN 6:35**

He who comes to Me shall never hunger  
and He who believes in Me shall never thirst

John 6:51 and 4:14

John 6:35 as a statement of eternal security

**ACTS 10:4**

**Romans 3:11 There is none who seeks after God.**

No one \_\_\_\_\_ toward God, but people \_\_\_\_\_ to God.

**A Calvinistic Assessment of Cornelius**

Major Premise: Only born-again people can seek God.

Minor Premise: Cornelius sought God.

Conclusion: Cornelius was already born again.

**Timeline of Acts 10–11**

	Acts 10	Acts 11
<b>1. Cornelius' vision in Caesarea Maritima</b>	<b>4-6</b>	<b>13-14</b>
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2. Cornelius sent men to Peter	7-8	11b
3. Peter's vision of the sheet with unclean animals	10-16	5-10
4. Peter went to Caesarea to see Cornelius	23	12
<b>5. Peter's unfinished sermon</b>	<b>28-44a</b>	<b>15a</b>
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<b>6. The Holy Spirit comes upon Cornelius</b>	<b>44b</b>	<b>15b</b>

**God gives more light to those who respond to the light they have**

**The chicken and the egg in Acts 11:14**

**EPHESIANS 2:8**

**Saved in Ephesians 2:5 and 8**

God made you alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)

*Saved* here means being made alive. Problem: they formerly were dead.

The car started through pushing the button.

You were made alive through faith.

Which came first?

**CONCLUSION**