

First Baptist Church of Clinton, Louisiana
1689 Second London Baptist Confession
“Chapter 10, Of Effectual Calling”
September 24, 2017

- Meaning of Effectual Calling in the Confession:

- Paragraph 1: The Basic Doctrine of Effectual Calling
 - See Rom 8:30; 11:7; Eph 1:10; 2 Thess 2:13, 14

 - What are the means of effectual calling?
 - The outward means are the Word and Spirit. Eph 2:1-6

 - But the Word and Spirit work in three specific ways, relating to the mind, heart, and will. This distinction isn't about chronology, but description.
 - First, the mind is enlightened. See Acts 26:18; Eph 1:17, 18.

 - Second, the Spirit removes the heart of stone and replaces it with a heart of flesh. See Ezek 36:26-27.

 - Third, the Spirit renews the will. In this way the individual is enabled to repent and believe the gospel. The confession speaks of God, “renewing their wills.” See Deut 30:6; Eph 1:19; Ps 110:3; Song 1:4.

- Paragraph 2: The Source of the Effectual Call
 - This effectual call is from God alone. See 2 Tim 1:9; Eph 2:8.
 - This statement of effectual calling is directly related to a medieval Roman Catholic doctrine. It was picked up by Arminius and reasserted by him.

 - They had a maxim that says, “To those who do what is within them, God will not deny grace.”

- A similar modern maxim: “God helps those who help themselves.”
- See 1 Cor 2:14; Eph 2:5; John 5:25.
- This power of effectual calling is the very same power that raised Christ from the dead. See Eph 1:19-20.
- Paragraph 3: The Case of Elect Infants
 - This addresses two classes of people: 1. elect infants dying in infancy; 2. those who are incapable of hearing the gospel.
 - The Reformed Faith has never denied the possibility of infant salvation.
 - Remember what we saw in chapter 5, paragraph 3. “God, in his ordinary providence makes use of means, yet is free to work without, above, and against them at His pleasure.” That doctrine serves as the basis of this paragraph in chapter 10.
 - Is this doctrine true? See Jn 3:3-8; Lk 1:41; 44
- Paragraph 4: The Non-Elect Under the Ministry of the Word
 - This teaches that the non-elect may sit long under the ministry of the gospel, but they will never believe. See Hebrews 6:4-5; Jn 6:44-45, 65.
 - This also addresses those who do not have the gospel. See Acts 4:12; Jn 4:22; 17:3