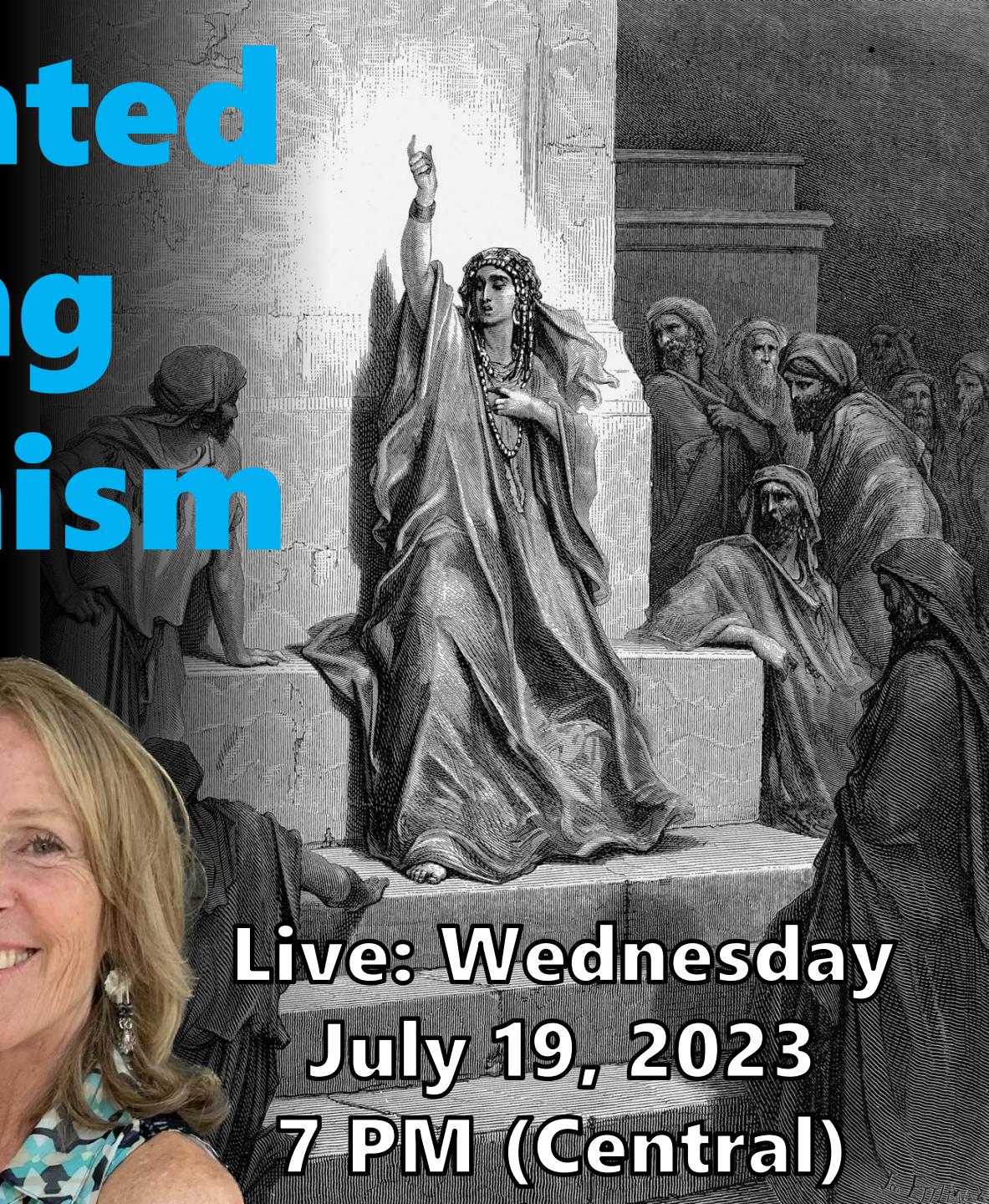


# Excommunicated For Exposing Stealth Calvinism



**Live: Wednesday  
July 19, 2023  
7 PM (Central)**

# The “Sovereignty” of Stealth Calvinism



**James Ross**  
**Sermon Review**

# BEYOND THE FUNDAMENTALS

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# Calvinist Viewer Disclaimer

Beyond The Fundamentals does not promote or agree with Arminianism, Provisionism, Pelagianism, Universalism, Synergism, Monergism, Open Theism or any other ideological label to which Calvinists attempt to map their theological opponents. We also do not hold “free will” as an axiomatic premise, nor do we worship ourselves or think that we save ourselves. We completely support Biblical predestination and Biblical election while rejecting Augustinian and Gnostic perversions of these concepts.



# Taqiyya :

In Islam, Taqiya or Taqiyya is a precautionary dissimulation or denial of religious belief and practice. Generally, taqiya is the action of committing a sinful act for a pious goal. A related term is Kitmān, which has a more specific meaning of dissimulation by silence or omission. [Wikipedia](#)



Britannica

<https://www.britannica.com> › ... › Religious Beliefs :

## Taqiyyah | Islamic Doctrine & Practices

taqiyyah, in Islam, the practice of concealing one's belief and foregoing ordinary religious duties when under threat of death or injury.

6:48 – atonement of our sins

7:45 – two common reasons we drift away from the gospel - (12:24) gospel is HIS MESSAGE. So how about Content?

7:48 – lawlessness

8:37 – legalism

9:37 – lawlessness and legalism share commonality of putting focus on ourselves instead of Christ – but later promotes a narcissistic view of scripture and the redemptive narrative

- at 27:30 of the 7.3.2022 sermon, he says the purpose of the creation is the redemption of our souls. This is a narcissistic view that puts the focus on the Calvinistic individual as being elect and at the center of God's purpose.

12:24 – Gospel is His (God's) MESSAGE

But he already said that Lawlessness and Legalism (behaviors) were ways that we deviate from the gospel

12:47 – removal of “unto” and replaced with “is” reverses the chicken and the egg.

13:13 – “that is what saves you” – no. it’s actually a prerequisite for what saves. God does the saving – Eph. 1:13.

14:00 – “the gospel isn’t something we responded to one day. It’s something we respond to every day”

Different Kinds of Grace

16:41 – common grace

16:44 – people experience that “grace” apart from Christ

16:46 – “this grace is the grace that comes from Jesus”

17:05 – Peace is this deeply rooted feeling that we are going to be alright

18:30-19:33 – subtle spirit of temptation to find joy in earthly things – like Calvinism

19:34 – Quotes matt chandler – outs Calvinism

20:25 – “mental health crisis” – meaning Crisis – left hemisphere dominance removes people’s connectedness from reality making them cynical and resentful and psychotic

21:00 – to deliver us from IDEOLOGY!

21:55 – Jesus Christ is ONLY hope. Then why supplement him with Calvinism?

22:30 – “walk away” – “deserting” – Calvinism is deserting Jesus Christ and is idolatry

23:25-25:20 – “gospel” Loosely attached to [Calvinism]; basis of our righteousness has become Jesus and \_\_\_\_\_.

25:40 – churches often become centered around those preferences [like Calvinism?]

25:48 – anything more or less than the gospel is not the gospel

26:17 – diagram

26:26 – “gospel is the good news that Jesus Christ has come and he’s made us righteous” – affect of appropriation, not gospel

27:03 – legalism → moralism → margaritas - no. Moralism is touting your view of “Sovereignty” in a sanctimonious tone implying that those who disagree with you are morally inferior to you.

28:05 – “spiritualism” - lists ecstatic experiences and emotionalism, not spiritualism.

28:18 – “not reading these kinds of books and following these kinds of authors” – he also says about “sovereignty vs. free will” that you should study these things out if you wanna get closer to God.

30:14 – “because I keep those traditions for God, I can lead a life of lawlessness.”

30:35 – John Stott quotation – Stott is a Calvinist - <http://gracepreacher.blogspot.com/2010/08/john-stott-on-calvinism-part-four-of.html>

30:45 “the church’s greatest troublemakers is not those who oppose ridicule and persecute it, but those inside who try to change the gospel” anything more or less than the gospel is not the gospel – Gal 1:8-9

31:31 – “If someone is leading someone away from the gospel, it doesn’t matter how significant of a position they have, how much influence they hold, or how godly they are’

32:15 – “I’m thinking about me. I need accountability. I need to stay on guard that what I’m preaching has come from Jesus.”

33:10 – definitions are important -

35:03 – am I trying to please man

35:58 – “affirm God over group” – makes a good platitude, but this is a staging area for him to later justify affirming Calvinism over his group” – these are the kinds of subtle tactics they use.

37:30 – “you are secure because...God has chosen to put you in his hands” – but how can you know that you were chosen and that it’s not just evanescent grace and that you’re not going to be the next Tyler Vela or Derek Webb or Josh Harris or Paul Maxwell? You can’t even know whether Christ died for you in Calvinism. All “assurance” in Calvinism is gaslighting.

39:35 – “some of you have been saved, and it’s not because...someone taught you or explained to you clearly sovereignty versus free will because they can’t” – that’s a false dichotomy and it’s not the issue.

40:07 – “what saves you is in a moment of honesty, you realize you need Jesus”

**We do not oppose Calvinism for emotional reasons. We oppose Calvinism for one reason, and one reason only:  
We Believe Scripture is true. Period. End of Story.**

**1 Timothy 2:4-6 (KJV)**

4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;  
6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

**John 12:32 (KJV)**

32 And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.

**Romans 5:18 (KJV)**

18 Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.

**Romans 11:32 (KJV)**

32 For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all.

**2 Peter 3:9 (KJV)**

9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

**2 Peter 2:1 (KJV)**

1 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

**John 1:7 (KJV)**

7 The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.

**John 1:9 (KJV)**

9 That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

**Hebrews 2:9 (KJV)**

9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

**1 John 2:2 (KJV)**

2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

**2 Corinthians 5:14-15 (KJV)**

14 For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:

15 And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

**John 1:29 (KJV)**

29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

**1 John 4:14 (KJV)**

14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.

**John 17:21 (KJV)**

21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

Scripture has God's **Will, Grace, Calling and Love**.

Calvinism divides God's Will into

- decretal and

- Preceptive

Calvinism modifies "grace" with

- Sovereign

- Irresistible

- Prevenient

- Common

- Doctrines of...

Scripture has Vocational Call (Eph. 4:1) and the Gospel Call (2 Thess. 2:14). Calvinism invents new kinds for the paradigm:

- Inward & Outward

- General & Particular

- Effectual and non-effectual

To get rid of John 3:16, Calvinism invents two subcategories of love:

- General

- Special Salvific

## **Proverbs 3:5–6 (KJV)**

**5** Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; And lean not unto thine own understanding.

**6** In all thy ways acknowledge him, And he shall direct thy paths.

## **Proverbs 30:5–6 (KJV)**

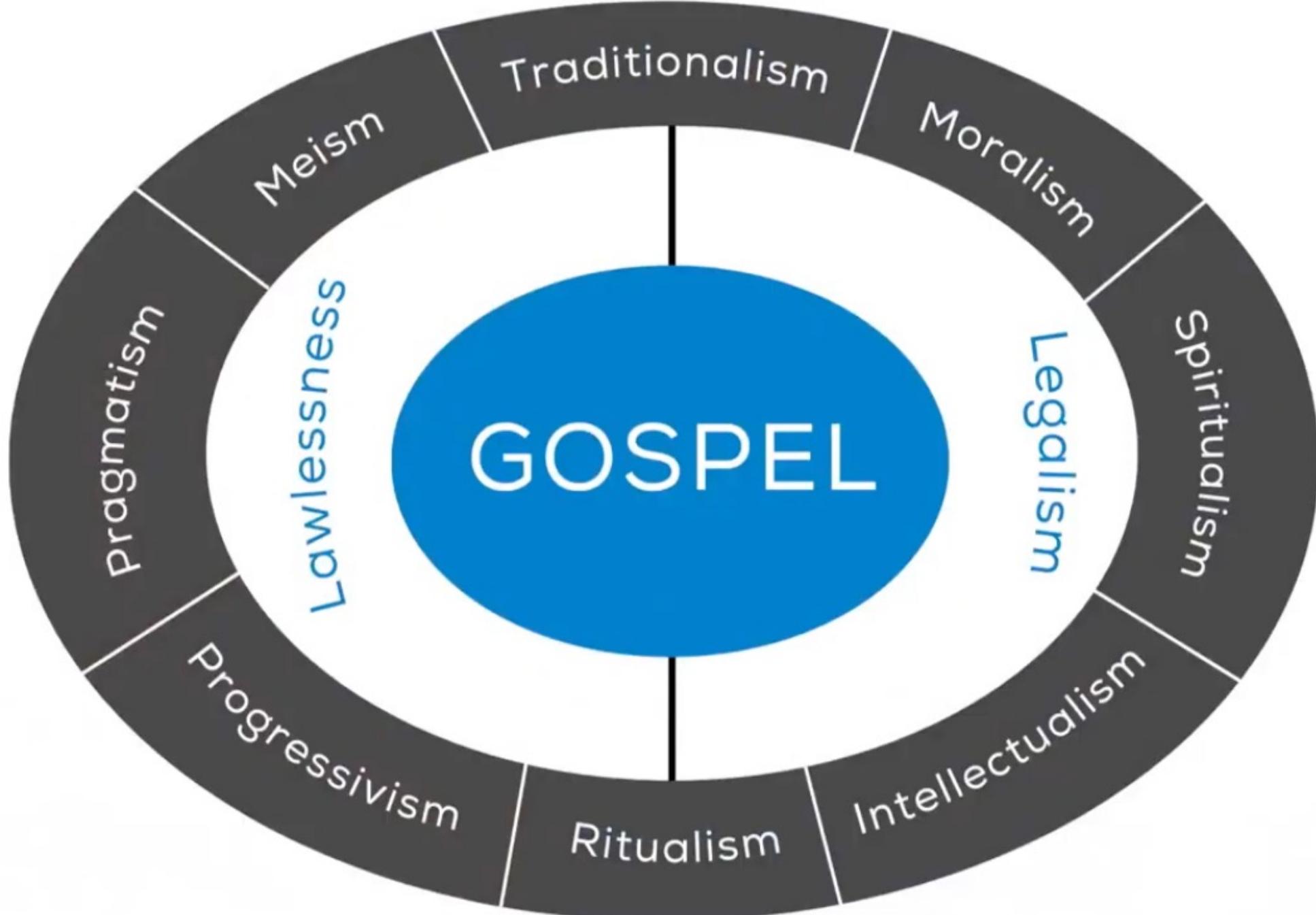
**5** Every word of God *is* pure: He *is* a shield unto them that put their trust in him.

**6** Add thou not unto his words, Lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.

## WHICH IS CORRECT?

SCRIPTURE	CALVINISM
<b>Romans 5:2</b> 2 By whom also we have access by <b>faith</b> into this <b>grace</b> wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.	<b>Romans 5:2</b> 2 By whom also we have access by <b>grace</b> into this <b>faith</b> wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.
<b>Romans 10:10</b> 10 For with the heart man believeth <b>unto</b> righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made <b>unto</b> salvation.	<b>Romans 10:10</b> 10 For with the heart man believeth <b>after he is made</b> righteous; and with the mouth confession is made <b>after</b> salvation.
<b>Ephesians 1:13</b> 13 In whom ye also <i>trusted</i> , after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also <b>after that ye believed</b> , <b>ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise</b> ,	<b>Ephesians 1:13</b> 13 In whom ye also <i>trusted</i> , after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also <b>after that ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise</b> , <b>ye believed</b> ,
<b>1 Corinthians 1:21</b> 21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to <b>save them that believe</b> .	<b>1 Corinthians 1:21</b> 21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to <b>cause belief in them that he saved</b> .

Proof? A Calvinist cannot explain to you what false doctrine or error is taught in the renderings in the right hand column, nor can they tell you where or how to avoid it. A Bible believer can identify and explain the error and how to avoid it in mere seconds.



## Definition of the Gospel:

### **Romans 1:15–16 (KJV)**

<sup>15</sup> So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.

<sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

Gospel means “good news”

Good news = death, burial, resurrection of Christ, salvation to all who believe

If you are not “elect” – Christ didn’t die for you, and you cannot be saved - NOT GOOD NEWS

If you are “elect” – you were chosen for salvation before the foundation of the world

What is the good news if Calvinism is true? = you are elect

## Content of the Gospel

### **1 Corinthians 15:1–4 (KJV)**

<sup>1</sup> Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

<sup>2</sup> By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

<sup>3</sup> For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

<sup>4</sup> And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:



Debbie Elliott

Sundays sermon

From [REDACTED]  
To James Ross  
Jul 7, 2022 at 11:26 PM ▾



Hi Pastor James,

I wanted to find out how I go about asking you some questions I have about this last Sundays sermon? Not sure if I can email or in person

Thank you!

Debbie



James Ross

Re: Sundays sermon

From james@churchonbayshore.org  
To Debbie Elliott & 1 more  
Jul 8, 2022 at 5:39 AM ▾



Hey Debbie,

It was good to see you and Richard on Monday night!

If it is about Calvinism (Reformed Theology, etc) the deacons have asked that I include them on the conversation since we have exhausted all my thoughts on that issue. I have included Dan Henkel on this e-mail in case you do not have his contact.

Otherwise, you can e-mail me or we can meet in person; whatever is your preference!

Grace and peace,

James



## Debbie Elliott

Re: Sundays sermon



From [REDACTED]

To James Ross & 1 more

Jul 10, 2022 at 8:56 PM ▾

Pastor James,

Yes, thank you, we loved the fire works! And thank you for getting back to me.

My basic question was about what you said we would proclaim as a church as far as the DEBATE that has gone on for thousands of years. You said we will proclaim:

1. Gods sovereign (Which means what? in this equation?)

2. We are responsible for our sin.

So my question is that if that definition of sovereign does not mean determinism or that God ordains the things we do, then why is it a "Mystery" or why can't we fully reconcile the two? Why WOULDN'T we be responsible?

And what then is the big debate about for all these years?

Thanks for your help with this,  
Debbie



## James Ross

Re: Sundays sermon July 3rd



From james@churchonbayshore.org

To Debbie Elliott & 1 more

Jul 13, 2022 at 11:24 AM ▾

Hey Debbie, you should have received an auto reply that I'm on vacation until Monday 7/18 :)

However, since we have exhausted the conversation regarding the issue you are bringing up, I'm including Dan Henkel on this email so you can address any concerns with him and the other deacons who have been included in this discussion.

Thanks,

James



# Debbie Elliott

Re: Sundays sermon July 3rd



From [REDACTED]

To James Ross & 1 more

Jul 13, 2022 at 12:11 PM ▾

Oh James, I am SO sorry!! Yes, I did get that but didn't notice the date because I got an email from you also after that one and opened it first 😊

Ok, in your sermon you said we could question you on either side, I took you at your word, I didn't realize I was excluded from that. I will pray about this and get back to Dan? Can he answer that question for me?

Thank you and again I'm so sorry for interrupting your vacation! Enjoy it!!

Debbie

Re: Sundays sermon July 3rd

AA

On Thursday, July 14, 2022, 9:37 PM, DANIEL HENKEL <[henkfam@cox.net](mailto:henkfam@cox.net)> wrote:

Debbie,

I'm currently in Orlando on City business but will be back this weekend. Concerning your email to James about his sermon on July 3rd: If this is truly just a question about the sermon and not one which goes more into Sovereignty vs. Free

Will/Calvinism/Armenianism then I will ask James to respond. He did say people could ask questions.

NOTE: I've been made aware that you have had previous discussions on the subject of Sovereignty vs. Free Will/Calvinism/Armenianism and James has responded to your concerns. So, if it about "Sovereignty vs. Free Will/Calvinism/Armenianism", discussions with James on that subject have been exhausted and now should be referred to the Deacons.

Very respectfully,

Dan Henkel

Deacon Chairman

## Re: Sundays sermon July 3rd

AA

**Subject:** Re: Sundays sermon July 3rd

Hi Dan, Thank you so much for emailing me, I appreciate it.

I'm not sure if you saw my question. It WAS regarding Gods sovereignty and free will, but it was HIS topic, not something I just brought up. James even said he loved debating Gods sovereignty and man's free will and seemed anyone could come challenge him, but that I cannot. He said this is what we will proclaim as a church, if we are in the church, that is what we proclaim, I just wanted to know what he meant by sovereign in the context of what he was saying. When you say "God is sovereign and man is responsible for his sin, and that it is a mystery and we can't fully reconcile that because we're not God", It is NO mystery if you include free will but he totally left free will out of the picture, even though he said half of you lean heavily on the free will side and half on God is sovereign side. I believe the way he said it showed he was giving determinism as the definition for sovereign. So, I was questioning what he was actually saying we would proclaim as a church.

If he doesn't want to talk about that and you would rather me just meet with the deacons, let me know, I'm willing.

Thank you again Dan,

Debbie

12:52

74

## Re: Sundays sermon July 3rd

AA

[Sent from AT&T Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

On Saturday, July 16, 2022, 2:00 PM, Daniel Henkel <[henkfam@cox.net](mailto:henkfam@cox.net)> wrote:

Again,

Thanks Debbie! I will meet with James and clarify and see where we go from here.

v/r

Dan

## Re: Sundays sermon July 3rd

AA

**From:** Debbie Elliott [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Sunday, July 17, 2022 6:13 AM

**To:** Daniel Henkel <[henkfam@cox.net](mailto:henkfam@cox.net)>

**Cc:** [rkdm@cox.net](mailto:rkdm@cox.net); [docjwaits@cox.net](mailto:docjwaits@cox.net); [sandgfaris\\_c@cox.net](mailto:sandgfaris_c@cox.net)

**Subject:** Re: Sundays sermon July 3rd

Thank you Dan, I am still learning. The more I learn about Calvinism, the more questions I have. I'm not saying I have it all down, that's why I'm asking. As far as what I have studied, this is what I, myself see, so I'm just asking for clarity. Before all this started and the reason all this started, was when my son and his wife became Calvinist. I started asking people in our church about Calvinism and if they knew what Calvinism was all about, you were one of them Dan and you referred me to pastor James. Well, when Richard and I went to talk to him about it, we came away very confused as to where he stood on Calvinism. And the more I have asked, even though he sounds good when I leave, once I would leave the meetings and really rethought through the conversations I still felt confused as to where he is with all this. I have left it alone until his sermon July 3rd when in his sermon HE talked about it. I, myself, think that if there are so many in our church on both sides, clarification of words used would be important. Thank you again Dan,  
Debbie

< Re: Sundays sermon July 3rd AA

On Jul 17, 2022, at 6:18 PM, Daniel Henkel <[henkfam@cox.net](mailto:henkfam@cox.net)> wrote:

Debbie,

Thank you for getting back to me and sharing. I'm not sure we can ever resolve this issue to anyone's satisfaction. This is a rabbit hole issue that takes many different turns and twists that creates confusion and dissension. I'm not trying to make light or say it isn't important but much has been written, discussed, and debated without any resolution. With that said, let me share a few documents and thoughts not only from me but Roger, Jeff, and Steve.

Roger mentioned to me that "it is a mystery because the Bible clearly says that God is Sovereign (The "Elect"). It also clearly says that mankind have the freedom to accept God's gracious offer of salvation ("whosoever"). The mystery is how these 2 things are both true and played out in the wisdom of God." Further, as we talked he pointed out that "God is sovereign but we can't take that to say we don't have some responsibility, i.e. we are responsible for our sin (there is no Biblical basis to say we are not responsible for our sin). As such we are held accountable for our sin and need a savior to rescue us from our sin and its eternal consequences." NOTE: Roger mentioned that He and Kaye would be available anytime to have coffee with you and Richard to discuss the subject further.

Jeff offers up these words: "I do believe you're

Jeff offers up these words: "I do believe you're sincere and genuine in your search for truth. Since this particular matter can easily become a circular debate, I believe I speak for James when I encourage you with two verses Ephesians 3:8 and Romans 11:33 with an emphasis on the Greek word unsearchable. In my own life when I find confusion and uncertainty on biblical matters, I focus on what is not confusing and what is clear, and it seems like God focuses me back on Himself. I only offer this as a help for you, my sister in Christ."

Steve shared a picture (see attached PDF file) of a discussion he had with Pastor Mike McGough one time that focuses on the Perfect Tension between the Sovereignty of God and the Free Will of Man. The picture depicts the hands of God from Heaven with the words "Sovereignty of God" on one hand and the words "Free Will of Man" on the other with a single band wrapped around the separated hands with the word "Perfect Tension" written on it. What a great illustration and certainly a mystery.

Here are some general observations: debates and deep dives into the issues of God's Sovereignty and Man's Free Will are the things that PhD students, Seminary professors, and Philosophers spend inordinate amounts of time looking into. Trying to figure it all out is like trying to figure out all the details of the End Time and Return of Christ. The Bible clearly tells us no one, including Jesus, knows when that will be except God Himself.

that will be except God Himself.

Also, I would ask you this: 1) Are people coming to the Lord because of the work this Church is doing under James' leadership? And, 2) Are we, as a church, routinely encouraged to "Live Sent" and share the Good News of Jesus?

Finally, you probably have already found this site, but it is a good debate between Danny Akin and Mark Coppenger (see the attached link): [Danny Akin » Debate on Calvinism \(danielakin.com\)](http://danielakin.com)

v/r

Dan Henkel

1:01

72



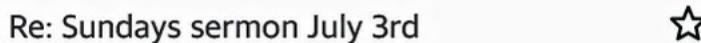
James Ross

Re: Sundays sermon July 3rd

From james@churchonbayshore.org

To henkfam@cox.net & 4 more

Jul 18, 2022 at 10:59 AM ▾



Good morning Debbie,

I think that Dan (and the group) articulated this well and I don't have anything to add to his e-mail. I think I have been clear and consistent that I agree with this tension in the scriptures and the remaining urgency to share the Gospel.

For clarity, during the sermon, I said that I could have a very knowledgeable conversation with people who land on both sides of this issue but there would still be tension after talking about it. The nature of that statement was said with an intended humorous tone. I clarified that there is room for differences of opinion on the issue within our church as long as someone's view does not become an agenda. In our last meeting (with Roger and Jeff present) we agreed that we had exhausted the topic over our several meetings and e-mails, and that it was best to not discuss this further.

1:01

72



Re: Sundays sermon July 3rd



I do not recall you asking me about any other theological issues over the past 5 years but I would be more than happy to discuss them with you, I just do not have anything left to say regarding this topic. I want to reiterate that you have been kind to me throughout the discussion and that my tone in this e-mail is one of respect and charity. I am here if you or Richard ever need anything.

In Christ,

James



Debbie Elliott

Re: Sundays sermon July 3rd



From [REDACTED]

To James Ross & 4 more

Jul 18, 2022 at 8:00 PM ▾

First I want to thank all of you for responding back to me.

Having said that I want to say how shocked I am with all of you. #1 Because I am a member of this church. Our pastor gave a sermon and within that sermon expressed what we as a church, will proclaim on a certain subject. As a member I should be able to ask a question, no matter what subject it's on.

#2. Dan, did you listen to the debate that you sent me? How about you James? Roger? Jeff? Steve? If none of you can tell me the problem with that debate, we do have a bigger than my question.



Debbie Elliott

Re: Sundays sermon July 3rd



From cutz2u@sbcglobal.net

To James Ross & 4 more

Jul 19, 2022 at 4:30 AM ▾

Correcting #2 I left out a word, ... we do have a bigger problem than my question.

1:27

68

RE: Sundays sermon July 3rd

AA

Debbie,

Again, thanks for your feedback and sorry that you feel that way because Pastor James did respond to your question. Further, please note that the link I sent you was a discussion. I didn't say I agreed or disagreed on the discussion. Although I could have explained my intent better, I was simply trying to point out that there are many different thoughts on the subject. My effort was to emphasize that there are some mysteries in the Bible we won't understand until we meet again in heaven. Finally, Roger said he would be happy to meet you for coffee (with Kaye and/or Richard) if you would like to discuss this issue more in person.

v/r

Dan

1:29

68

RE: Sundays sermon July 3rd

AA

On Thursday, July 21, 2022, 9:13 PM, Debbie Elliott

< [REDACTED] > wrote:

Dan, Again thank you for getting back to me.

One thing I want to make clear, that in the last meeting with James, Roger and Jeff (Marsha Curry was there also), I never agreed that I would not ever bring this up again. The only question I am asking is, if God is sovereign, and man is responsible for his sin/actions, why is that a mystery? I am asking for JAMES explanation of his definition of sovereignty, as the one Roger gave leans Calvinistic. And Dan yes, that debate was really a discussion. There was a moderator asking two men their perspective on this topic, and both these men lean toward Calvinism! And one of those two men was the one that wrote the article on Calvinism!

There was NO one there to defend or give their perspective on the other side. So everything you and Roger sent to me to help me was all Calvinist leaning!

When searching for a pastor, the search team was given questions to ask to ensure that our church did not shift our theology toward Calvinism. We did not want Calvinistic doctrine taught in our church! So obviously it was important, I'm am not just "out there" on this. Dan, you and Roger were on that search team. Can you tell me why we didn't want this in our church? All that you and Roger sent me in that email (Rogers note, the debate and the

1:29

68

RE: Sundays sermon July 3rd

AA

in that email (Rogers note, the debate and the article on Calvinism were all in support of Calvinist doctrine, and the scary thing is is that I don't think you realize it.

Sent from AT&T Yahoo Mail for iPhone

Debbie,

1:39

66

RE: Sundays sermon July 3rd

AA

On Tuesday, July 26, 2022, 3:55 PM, Daniel Henkel <henkfam@cox.net> wrote:

Debbie,

Given the direction of this conversation it would be best to only meet in person so that tone is not lost. I talked with Roger and his offer to meet with you in person still stands. Additionally, if I can clear my schedule, I could potentially be available as well.

v/r

Dan

1:40

66

## RE: Sundays sermon July 3rd

AA

Thank you Dan for getting back to me,

I agree with you about getting together, but seeing I have already met with James, Roger and Jeff, the next time I would like to go before the deacons, and I would like to bring Marsha Curry with me. From my understanding the deacons meet once a month? I am not available in August but perhaps Septembers monthly deacon meeting would work? Just let me know.

Thank you,

Debbie

On Thursday, July 28, 2022, 5:51 AM, DANIEL HENKEL <henkfam@cox.net> wrote:

Debbie,

Yes, we can meet in September. Our meeting will be Monday, 12 September in the Bayview Room. Please plan to arrive @ 7:00 PM. With that said, I need to hear back from you in this email three things:

1. **In your words, what is the purpose for the meeting?**
2. **What is your expected outcome?**
3. **It would be helpful to know what your beliefs are and why you think our Pastor and Church are trending Calvinist?**

**Here's how we'll conduct this part of the agenda:**

1:44

66

## RE: Sundays sermon July 3rd

AA

- You provide whatever you'd like say. **NOTE:** It would be good for you to let the Deacons know what you would like them to do.
- The Deacons may have some follow up questions for you. **NOTE:** We won't get into a debate on this topic.
- After that, the Deacons will discuss your request and the info provided. **NOTE:** You and Marsha won't need to stay for that portion.
- I, and the Deacon Officers, will follow up with you in the near future with the outcome of the Deacons' discussion.

Thank you!

v/r

Dan

1:49

65

RE: Sundays sermon July 3rd

AA

Hi Dan,

I would like my previous questions clearly answered.

And yes, I would like to confirm Monday, Sept. 12th 7:00 in the Bayview room.

Thank you,

Debbie

1:56

64

RE: Sundays sermon July 3rd

AA

Debbie,

You have asked to meet with the Deacons. I will be happy to oblige, but the Deacons will need to know what the purpose of the meeting is and, at this time, I still don't know because you have not answered my questions. You say you would like to have your previous questions answered clearly. They have been! James and key leadership of the Deacon Body have answered those questions.

With that said, let me remind you that you have asked to go to the Deacons, so it is incumbent on you to let the Deacons know what you will be asking them to do.

Again, I will ask you to respond to my questions. If you choose not to, I will rescind my invitation to meet with the Deacons.

1. In your words, what is the purpose for the meeting with the Deacons?
2. What is your expected outcome? What do you hope to accomplish?
3. You have stated that you would like "their

1:56

64

RE: Sundays sermon July 3rd

AA

3. You have stated that you would like "their perspective on the other side". The other side of Calvinism is Arminianism. Do your personal beliefs lean toward Arminianism?
4. What are your beliefs and why do you think our Pastor and Church are trending Calvinist?

Additionally, as I stated in my last email, we will conduct the meeting with a specific set of ground rules:

- You address issues related to your stated purpose for the meeting.
- From the perspective of your expectations/desired outcomes or what you hope to accomplish from this meeting, you need to let the Deacons know what you would like them to do.
- The Deacons may have some follow up questions for you. **NOTE:** This meeting is not for the purposes of debate. So, if you are hoping for a debate, that is off the table.
- As I said in my previous email, after your presentation the Deacons will discuss your issue/concern and, at a later date, we will follow up with you and inform you of the outcome of the Deacons' discussion.

v/r

Dan

1:58

63

AA



Debbie Elliott

Re: Sundays sermon July 3rd

☆

From [REDACTED]

To Daniel Henkel & 4 more

Aug 2, 2022 at 7:41 PM ▾

Hi Dan,

I do understand you needing me to be more specific on what to tell the deacons before our meeting.

I know all of you believe that you have answered my question but to me it isn't answered, but is only repeating the same thing that James said in his sermon that prompted my question. James wording when speaking on Gods sovereignty and free will has caused me to question his definition of the word sovereignty, especially when he says this is what we, as a church will proclaim, which includes me.

Is there any way that we can have a white board in the room when we come? I think it maybe easier for me to explain where I am coming from on a few things and therefore help you show me where I might be right or wrong. James has said himself that we need to be Bereans and search the scriptures to see if what he is saying is truth. And I want to remind you and bring up to the deacons that I did not bring up Calvinism in this situation, what was said was said by James, I'm just questioning him on something he said, as he always tells us to do, that did not sound right to me as far as what we believe

as a church. I believe that he should answer my question. I would like their opinion on this. I would also like to remind them, and everyone involved, that our church did not want a Calvinist pastor and that the search team was given questions to ask to make sure that didn't happen. I had asked you, seeing you were on the search team, why didn't we want a Calvinist pastor? As we are progressing through intergenerational discipleship material, I believe it is a very important to know what will be taught in discipleship tools.

And yes, we would like to explain why we believe James leans Calvinist and therefore concerned that our church is slowly going in that direction as you will always teach what you believe.

As far as the outcome, I would like to walk away from this meeting with a clearer picture of where our church stands as far as Calvinism, and I would like for James to give a definition and explanation of his use of the word sovereign in his recent sermon in its context.

I hope this helps and again thank you for getting back to me.

Debbie

2:08

62

AA



Debbie Elliott

Re: Sundays sermon July 3rd

☆

From [REDACTED]

To Daniel Henkel & 4 more

Aug 2, 2022 at 8:34 PM ▾

PS I am not Arminian and I do NOT want a debate, I will explain what I believe scripture says or what I believe James is saying, but not debate.

Sent from AT&T Yahoo Mail for iPhone

2:12

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 DANIEL HENKEL

Re: Sundays sermon July 3rd

From henkfam@cox.net

To Debbie Elliott & 5 more

Aug 4, 2022 at 2:04 PM ▾

Debbie,

You still haven't answered my questions. With that said, I get that you feel like your questions haven't been answered and that you have concerns about Pastor James. To that end, here is where we need to go next.

First, the offer for you and another person to meet one-on-one with one of our Deacons on this email exchange still stands. We feel that it is important for you to have a Deacon familiar with our discussions that you can talk to on these matters. However, it is not appropriate for the collective Deacon body to be present at this time.

Lastly, I will assemble a sub-set of eight or nine Deacons to meet with you and listen to your concerns. We can do this sometime in September on a date and time that we all agree to.

In Christ,

Dan

2:17

60

 Debbie Elliott

Re: Sundays sermon July 3rd

From [REDACTED]

To DANIEL HENKEL & 5 more

Aug 5, 2022 at 8:57 AM ▾

Hi Dan, I do not know which question I did not answer in my last email, I believe I answered them. Let me know which one I did not answer.

Do you realize that when I first contacted James and asked how I go about asking James a question on his sermon, he said I COULD in person or email, BuT that if it was about Calvinism he would include deacons. Then I ask and he would not answer. Now you said I could come for the Sept. deacon meeting and now it is inappropriate but I CAN talk to 8-9 of them that you put together. What changed in both of these situations?

Thank you,  
Debbie



Debbie Elliott

Re: Sundays sermon July 3rd

From [REDACTED]  
To DANIEL HENKEL & 5 more  
Aug 12, 2022 at 5:22 PM ▾

Dan,

During this time between emails, I have prayerfully gone over all our previous emails to understand the answers you all have said that you have given me on response to my question to James concerning his sermon dated July 3rd. In his sermon he said, "This is what we will proclaim as a church, God is sovereign, and man is responsible for his sin/actions, and that it is a mystery, we cannot reconcile this in our minds because we are not God.

Based on James sermon, he is defining sovereign as determinism, that God determines everything that we do, and yet James calls it a mystery.

Roger says that it is a mystery because both sovereign (elect) and choice are both "clearly" taught in the Bible and that they are both true. But in order for it to be clear and to validate its truth you must define what you mean by "sovereign" and "elect".

Jeff is saying that this topic can easily become a circular debate, confusing and uncertain, to just focus on what you know to be true. But that is contrary to what the Bible says, we are to be Bereans and to search the scriptures to see if what

AA



## Re: Sundays sermon July 3rd

AA

we are hearing is true. How can we disciple someone when we do not know what we believe ourselves?

And Dan, you say that to try to solve this issue creates confusion and dissension that can easily lead to too many twists and turns like a rabbit hole.

Based on Dan, Roger, Jeff and James, your emails come down to how you define sovereign and elect. In conclusion with emails and attachments you have supported the sovereignty as defined in the Calvinistic doctrine, that God determines everything that we do. Some of these words that are popular with Calvinists, "sovereign", "elect", "predestine", as well as with Danny Akins: "effectual calling" and "compatibilism", when not clearly defined, can make it sound like we are all basically believing the same thing.

Questions like mine should have already been answered by James to the pastor search committee, because this was very important to and instructed by the church body.

Unless James defines the meaning of these words, "Sovereign" and "Elect" as used in his sermon, my question can never be clearly answered.

Based on this and that we have already involved 5 deacons and James and not received a clear answer, we believe it would not be beneficial to meet with 8-9 deacons at this time.

Sincerely,  
Debbie

2:28

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AA



DANIEL HENKEL

Re: Sundays sermon July 3rd

★

From henkfam@cox.net

To Debbie Elliott & 4 more

Aug 13, 2022 at 4:15 PM ▾

Debbie,

The point of our desire to meet in person is that Pastor James has answered your questions multiple times in person and over e-mail (we have records of some of this exchange) over a period of several years, and that has not been satisfactory. Our hope is that this can be resolved once and for all, but it is clear that e-mail is not the most effective method for resolution of the issue.

The church's constitution and by-laws put the responsibility of the unity of the church, specifically grievances with a pastor, in the hands of the Deacon Officers. Our willingness to meet with you to hear your concern and decide the course of action still stands. Based on your last e-mail, we are ready to meet with you if you once again feel that a

2:28

●●● 58



Re: Sundays sermon July 3rd

AA

ready to meet with you if you once again feel that a meeting is necessary but otherwise we expect that if you remain active in this church you will do so with a spirit of Christian unity and will not cause divisiveness.

Your Brother in Christ,

Dan



# Debbie Elliott

Re: Sundays sermon July 3rd

From [REDACTED]  
To DANIEL HENKEL & 4 more  
Aug 15, 2022 at 12:00 PM ▾

Dan,

Thank you for getting back to me.

My intentions have NEVER EVER been to be divisive or stir up trouble.

You are right in that I have met with James in person and also have emails dating from Sept. 10th 2018. After those particular emails my husband and I left the church for a year because, even after the emailing, we could not figure out where James was with this issue, and we left quietly, besides a few more emails to James for clarification, because we really didn't want to leave.

The sad part of all of this to me is that this could have been resolved from the beginning if James, being the pastor and having already been approved by the pastor search committee as a non-Calvinist, said "Debbie, you and Richard come right back in here and let me tell you what I said to the search committee to show them that I was not a Calvinist. And you know those verses I sent to you to show you that it is just not that easy to figure Calvinism out therefore figure me out? Well, they seem to prove the theology of Calvinism, but let me show you why they do not, and why I do not agree with them. And as far as the TULIP, let me show you where I disagree". But that is not what happened,

he basically supported it. I told that to Roger and Roger said, "Well, I talked to my son that is a pastor and he said it's not a cult or anything".

Each time I have talk with James I take what he has said back to scripture to see what Scripture says.

Dan, I have gone down some of those "twists and turns", I have listened to debates and read books (On BOTH sides) and compare them to what I see in scripture. I continue to question James because the more I study scripture it becomes more clear to me that there is something wrong here. You all know that you do NOT learn what Calvinism is about over night, I knew absolutely NOTHING about Calvinism (compared to James having studied it for years), before Richard and I met with James for the first time and you and Roger both know that because I came to both of you before James.

To me, there is no reason in this world that James could give as to why he will not clarify to me the words used in his sermon, as a matter of fact it seems he would WANT me to know!

Marsha and I decided not to meet with the 8-9 deacons because you originally said we could meet with the whole board.

All of your answers seem to be "tension and mystery", and I would just like to hear James definition of words to see if that is what scripture actually says because I don't see it that way.

I have never been known to be one that stirs up trouble or be divisive, to the contrary I've probably been too much of a peacekeeper.

I do not know yet where I will go with this but I wanted you to know that my intentions have never

been to be divisive but to find out the truth.

I have NO problem with Calvinist being in our church, I have nothing against them, to me they are more than welcome, I just do not agree with their theology. Our church did not want a Calvinist pastor because of their doctrine and yet I see the waters becoming muddied and unclear as to where we are taking a stand or in James words, "What we will proclaim as a church".

Sincerely,  
Debbie

Sent from AT&T Yahoo Mail for iPhone



# DANIEL HENKEL

Re: Sundays sermon July 3rd

From henkfam@cox.net  
To Debbie Elliott & 4 more  
Aug 16, 2022 at 2:27 PM ▾

Debbie,

Thank you!

Your Brother in Christ,

Dan

April 2023



## Debbie Elliott

Re: Sundays sermon July 3rd



From [REDACTED]

To DANIEL HENKEL & 5 more

Apr 19 at 5:57 PM ▾

Dan,

Based on our last emails, we took time to seek the Lord in this matter. Rather than taking it to the church at this time, we would like to meet with all the deacons as Dan suggested. Because we know May's deacon meeting is just around the corner, we would like to meet in June.

Sincerely,

Debbie and Marsha

On Thursday, April 20, 2023, 8:03 AM, DANIEL HENKEL <[henkfam@cox.net](mailto:henkfam@cox.net)> wrote:

Debbie,

We will get back to you on the details in the next few weeks.

Your Brother in Christ!

Dan



## Debbie Elliott

Re: Sundays sermon July 3rd



From [REDACTED]

To DANIEL HENKEL & 4 more

Apr 20 at 3:08 PM ▾

Great! Thank you Dan!  
Debbie



## Daniel Henkel

### Request to Meet with Deacons

From henkfam@cox.net

To 'Debbie Elliott' & 11 more

Apr 30 at 3:41 PM ▾



Debbie,

We will discuss this with the Deacon Body and get back to you concerning a meeting.

Your Brother in Christ!

v/r

Dan



## Daniel Henkel

### Your Requested Meeting



From henkfam@cox.net

To Debbie Elliott & 7 more

May 18 at 9:24 PM ▾

Debbie, Marsha,

In reference to your request to meet with the deacons:

First, I'm no longer the Deacon Chairman. That position is now filled by Lynn Neergaard. The other Deacon Officers also changed out. The new Deacon Vice Chairman is Josh Yeaste and the new Secretary/Treasurer is Phil Webb. Your request to meet with the deacons in June was discussed at our last meeting. The Deacon Body was briefed on the issue at hand and they voted, unanimously, to not meet with you. With that said, we believe a meeting with the current Deacon Officers, along with the current Trustee Chair, the 2 former Deacon Chairs involved with your concerns, and the Pastor is warranted. We would like to meet with you and your husbands (Richard and Terry) next Thursday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM in room 105A. The following will be participating in the meeting:

Lynn Neergaard (Deacon Chair)

Josh Yeaste (Deacon Vice Chair)

Phil Webb (Deacon Secretary/Treasurer)

Dan Henkel (Past Deacon Chair)

Dennis Branton (Past Deacon Chair)

Ernie De La Cantera (Trustee Chairman)

James Ross (Lead Pastor)

v/r

Dan Henkel  
Former Deacon Chairman



## Debbie Elliott

Re: Your Requested Meeting



From [REDACTED]

To Daniel Henkel & 9 more

May 19 at 7:58 PM ▾

Dan, Thank you for your response.

First we would like to express our condolences to the De La Cantera family.

Due to business travel schedules the four of us (Elliott and Curry) will be available to meet July 20th.

Please provide the pertinent minutes from the deacon meeting and the list of attendees, specifically the topic of discussion and the motion that was voted on.

Respectfully,

The Elliott and Curry Families



## Daniel Henkel

RE: Your Requested Meeting



From henkfam@cox.net

To 'Debbie Elliott' & 9 more

May 23 at 6:33 PM ▾

Dear Debbie and Marcia,

We are sorry that you aren't able to meet with us on the 25th of May. Therefore this is to advise you that the Deacon's reviewed and discussed your concerns in regards to our Pastor being a Calvinist we unanimously agreed that your concerns have no basis. There will be no further discussion and this issue ends today. We request you discontinue any further communication with our Pastor or any other church member about Calvinism. We hope and pray you will, along with us, strive for unity in our church which is what the scriptures encourages us to do.

In Christ Love and on behalf of the Deacon Body,

Dan Henkel  
Past Deacon Chairman



# RICHARD ELLIOTT

Re: Your Requested Meeting



From [REDACTED]

To 'Debbie Elliott' & 10 more

May 23 at 8:13 PM ▾

Mr Henkel, et. al, The reason for not being able to met is due to business schedules, specifically mine for the most part. I am a director of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] We are nearing [REDACTED] in a couple of weeks and just came off our [REDACTED] this past week where we presented [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Therefore, most of my free time is taken up with ensuring our [REDACTED] goes well in June as well as being involved with our after action (Hot Wash) conversations. Additionally, I have business travel June 06-09, 13-17, 19-22 and a family trip planned for June 28 to July 5th. The Currys also have business and personal plans. Therefore, when we received your email demanding (since you left no other choice), we quickly discuseed if we all could make that date. I was the first who could not, so we moved on a week at a time until we arrived at a time that seemed to not include any schedule conflicts.

I cannot speak for Mr Curry, but can tell you that I have only been on the very fringe of this issue as I work full time as well as provide guidance to the [REDACTED] I am responsible for. Therefore, I requested a copy of the Deacon Meeting Minutes (appropriate section) and list of attendees so that I can determine what was discussed with whom. My understanding is there are over 70 deacons in the church. How many were there? What is a quorum and did you have one if required to

vote on a motion? What was the motion, who presented it and who seconded it? You previously stated it was a unanimous vote, so no need to ask what the count was. I cannot go into a meeting of this nature without understanding the deacon's position and in turn being allowed to present my own.

To my knowledge, conversations on Calvinism has been primarily between Marsha and Debbie. I know of no one that they initiated a conversation with. So, I think before we try to squash someone's constitutional rights, we need to have two conversations. The first would be ground rules for the 2nd. The 2nd being What is Calvinism and what is Church On Bayshore's position with regard to teaching it or educating the church about it.

As previously noted, I am open to meet sometime the 3rd week of July.

Very Respectfully,

Richard Elliott



