

But that is the impression that is often given.

About 100 years after Calvin lived there was a group in Holland that began to attack certain of his teachings and the Council of Dort was held to which various representatives came from countries and considered the matter very carefully and denied the particular points at which his teachings had been attacked. They did this in five principles which they stated. They were negative principles which did not intend to give us the fundamental principles of Calvinism.

They intended to give us the answers to the fundamental principles of Arminianism. Sometime later on, I don't know how much later, somebody rearranged the order of these principles and gave them names in English. They ~~were~~ were originally written in Latin and Dutch translation. They gave them names in English that were planned in order to arrange to make a word, one word that could easily be remembered. Since this came from Holland the name T U L I P was selected. Names for these points were selected to begin with T U L I P.

In almost every case the name does not give a proper representation of the correct doctrine which was stated in the conclusions of the Synod of Dort. The result is that many people have taken these names and have drawn in logical conclusion from the names which is not warranted by the doctrine. Thus there is a widespread idea that Calvinism which is actually a travesty or a parody to it.

This is extremely unfortunate. This is true even of the last of these, the fifth, in which case the ~~word~~ word could easily be changed in it in order that it would not give a false idea. The fifth of these points as it is generally expressed is the perseverance of the saints. If there is anything that is contrary to Calvinistic doctrine it is the idea of the perseverance of the saints! Some people change it to preservation of the saints which would be what is meant.

We try to hold on to God and trust that we won't fall! We're in a terrible situation. But if we truly believe in Christ, He is holding on to us and He will preserve us. These names are very very poorly selected. It is nice to have words come together in such a way it makes it easy to remember them, but if it gives you a false idea of most of what is meant it is extremely unfortunate. A knowledge of the great Biblical principles of God's sovereignty gives us a great blessing. When things appear hopeless, we know that God is still on the Throne. When we work very very hard and seem to accomplish nothing we know in this particular case God has willed that it be so and we are comforted.