

## **Predestination and the Universalist Response**

### **Five main points of predestination:**

1. All people are born stained with original sin. We come into the world depraved and ready to sin. No exceptions.
2. God chooses people—before they are even born—to be in relationship with God. You are either in or out, and it does not finally matter how good, how faithful, how “churchy” you are. Those chosen people are called “The Elect,” and you never quite know if you were one of them until you are dead and find out.
3. The sacrifice of Jesus’ death on the cross wasn’t supposed to secure forgiveness for everyone’s sins, just for The Elect.
4. No matter what, The Elect will be saved by coming to a perfect faith in God through Jesus, and will go to Heaven. Nothing can prevent this.
5. Once you are elected, you are always the elect. God does not change God’s mind about you.

### **Universalists’ main arguments against double predestination:**

- God is too good and loving to condemn most of creation to hell. Why would God go to all the trouble of creating people in God’s own image, giving them free will, and then punishing them for using it?
- Jesus told us to love our enemies. What Jesus taught comes from God, right? So God loves God’s enemies, right? So why would God condemn anyone to an eternal hell?
- People are capable of forgiving each other for the worst crimes. That’s pretty good, right? Well, if God is way more merciful than people are, isn’t God much more capable of forgiving than people?
- Ergo... no hell (or if you still want to hold to an idea of hell, you need a different understanding of it.)

**Dictionary definitions:**

**u·ni·ver·sal *adjective***

1. of, pertaining to, or characteristic of all or the whole: *universal experience*.
2. applicable everywhere or in all cases; general: *a universal cure*.
3. affecting, concerning, or involving all: *universal military service*.
4. used or understood by all: *a universal language*.
5. present everywhere: *the universal calm of southern seas*.