

## What is the Free Offer?

The 'Free Offer' (also known as 'The sincere Offer' or 'Well-Meant Offer') is a term to describe most modern, evangelical Gospel preaching. It is based upon a proclamation that God loves everyone and that anyone who hears the Gospel message can be saved, if they choose to believe it. In other words, the Gospel is God's sincere invitation that all may believe since God desires the salvation of everyone. The basis for this preaching must be the following:

1. God desires the salvation of everyone. [Universal grace.]
2. God loves everyone. [God's universal love.]
3. Christ died for everyone. [Universal atonement.]

Therefore, the initiative for conversion is man's free-will decision. Note that it emphasises universalism. This is the teaching of 4-Point Calvinists.

The similarities with Arminian universalism are obvious, yet many Reformed preachers use this message. They claim to be Reformed by using contradiction and confusion, which amounts to the old heresy of Amyraldism (see that card) – thus God's grace is universal, but is only applied to the elect in the end. Thus they teach that God has two contradictory wills: a secret will that only the elect will be saved, and a revealed will that God desires the salvation of all. This dishonours God's attributes, placing contradiction in God's character.

### **The Free Offer denies the following Biblical doctrines:**

1. *God does not love all* but hates the wicked (Ps 5:6, 11:5, Rm 9:13).
2. *God does not change* (Mal 3:6), therefore he does not love some and then hate them later when they do not believe. When he loves, he loves forever (Eccles 3:14).
3. *Jesus did not die for all* but only redeemed the elect (Matt 1:21; Isa 53:11). The cross was not sufficient for anyone who accepts it, but definite for those God gave to Christ (Jn 17:2, 9).
4. *The elect are chosen by God in eternity* (Eph 1:4-5), therefore God does not desire the salvation of those he predetermined to damnation (Prov 16:4).
5. *Grace is not common or universal* but only ever comes from the cross and is applied to the elect (2 Tim 1:9). Grace results in salvation (Eph 2:5).

Confusingly, there is a form of genuine Gospel preaching which some call 'The Free Offer' who do not follow the erroneous scheme. By this term these folk mean that the Gospel is available to every man, 'whosoever will may come'; i.e. the message is indiscriminate and universal. But they do not teach that all will come since God has only called the elect and Christ only died for these people.

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