

Before the first man was created, God in his eternal counsel had determined what he willed to be done with the whole human race. In the hidden counsel of God it was determined that Adam should fall from the unimpaired condition of his nature, and by his defection should involve all his posterity in sentence of eternal death. Upon the same decree depends the distinction between elect and reprobate [those who are damned to Hell]: as he adopted some for himself for salvation, he destined others for eternal ruin. ... [None] are truly illuminated with faith, and none granted the spirit of regeneration, except those whom God elects.

**Source: John Calvin, *Articles Concerning Predestination*, c. 1560**