



Q & A: Part 2
Protestantism to the Present
From Sermon 6.25.23

Read *Romans 1:16-17*

Overview from Sunday's sermon: In our 2nd Q & A message, we get to the most asked question from our survey: the differences between Calvinism and Arminianism. The 1st part provided the background and context for the topic. We covered the history of the Church from Pentecost to the Reformation. With that, we can now better answer the resurrected debate from the early 17th Century (and still raging today).

1. Long before Calvin and Arminius, the very same debate raged between which two 4th/5th Century theologians? Augustine & Pelagius

1a. What were their respective positions and where did much of the church eventually land in the debate? Augustine held man is dead in his sin, therefore regeneration is all God's work. Pelagius held the man is unaffected by Adam's fall, therefore man is sovereign in his own salvation.

2. What are the 5 "Sola" Statements and how do they distinguish Protestant doctrine?

Sola Scriptura—Scripture alone as the authority for doctrine, church, and life.

Sola Fide—Faith alone for salvation.

Sola Gratia—Grace alone. Faith & salvation are both gifts from God.

Sola Christos—Christ alone. His righteousness is imputed to us. Our sin imputed to Him.

Soli deo Gloria—To the glory of God alone.

3. Who was Jacob Arminius and how did his name get associated with a movement and doctrine? A Dutch theologian, pastor, and professor. He questioned the Reformed doctrine of God's sovereignty in salvation. He held that election was conditional, grace resistible, and salvation forfeitable.

4. In the debate, why is it critical that the argument be based on the Jesus meant vs what Jesus said? Jesus clearly taught election, irresistible grace, and secure salvation. To say He didn't is to deny Scripture. If one side wants to say that's not what He meant (with other Scriptures), it's within the same debate.

5. Review these main Scriptures supporting: Unconditional Election—John 6:44 (& Romans 9, coming up in question 6a.), Limited Atonement—John 10:15 & 26, and Irresistible Grace—John 6:37.

6. Which group believes in election and predestination? Trick question. Also, a critical one of massive ignorance and misunderstanding. Both sides (historically) believe in election and predestination. The division comes with: On what basis does God elect? Reformed (Calvinist) = solely on God's sovereign will. Arminians = based on God's foreknowledge of each person's future decision.

6a. What main scripture (among many) refutes the "foreknowledge" position? Romans 9:10-18

7. By holding a Reformed doctrine position, what are "Calvinists" and Reformed Churches often unfairly accused of? Various answers. Diminishing God's love and grace. Believing in a new, invented doctrine from one man in the 16th Century, inventing TULIP, dodging evangelism, cheapening Christ's substitutionary atonement.