

ARMINIANISM v. CALVINISM

5 Points of Arminianism	5 Points of Calvinism
<u><i>Free Will (Human Ability)</i></u>	<u><i>Total Depravity (Human Inability)</i></u>
Sin does not control man's will. He is sick and near-sighted, but still has the ability to obey, believe and repent. He does not need to be regenerated by God in order to believe the gospel.	Sin controls every part of man, including his heart, his mind, and his will. He is spiritually dead and blind, and unable to obey, believe, or repent. Man does not have the ability or power in himself to savingly believe in the gospel. (Gen 6:5; Ps 51:5; Jer 17:9; Mark 7:21-23; Rom 3:9ff; Eph 2:1-3; 1 John 1:8-10)
<u><i>Conditional Election</i></u>	<u><i>Unconditional Election</i></u>
God chose the elect on the basis of their foreseen faith (i.e., by seeing from eternity past that they would respond to His call). Their election is thus determined by God seeing what man would do and responding to that.	God chose the elect solely on the basis of His free grace, not anything that He foresaw in them (God would only have foreseen rebellion in them). He has a special love for the elect; the rest were passed over to be justly condemned for their sin and rebellion against God. (Rom 9:13-18; 21-23; Eph 1:3-6; 2 Thes 2:13; 1 Pet 1:2)
<u><i>General Atonement (Universal Redemption)</i></u>	<u><i>Limited Atonement (Particular Redemption)</i></u>
Christ died equally for all men, and paid a provisional price that made salvation possible for all but guaranteed it for none.	Christ died especially for the elect, and He paid a definite price for them that guaranteed their salvation. (John 6:35-40; John 10:3-15; Acts 20:28; Eph 5:25; Heb 9:15)
<u><i>Resistible Grace</i></u>	<u><i>Irresistible Grace</i></u>
Saving grace is resistible, for God does not overrule man's free will. Man is born again after he believes. God's grace can be (and often is) thwarted by man.	Saving grace is irresistible, for the Holy Spirit in invincible and intervenes in man's heart. While an outward general call to salvation is made to everyone who hears the gospel, the Holy Spirit extends to the elect a special inward call that inevitably brings them to salvation. (Deut 30:6; Ezek 11:19, 36:26-27; John 3:3-8; 6:37-40, 45)
<u><i>Falling from Grace</i></u>	<u><i>Perseverance (or Preservation) of the Saints</i></u>
Those who believe and are truly saved can lose their salvation by failing to keep up their faith. (Note: Arminians are divided over whether one can actually lose his salvation.)	God keeps and preserves all the elect and causes them to persevere in faith and obedience to the end. Though they may for a time backslide, none of the elect are finally lost in the end. (Jer 32:40; John 6:39-40, 10:27-29; Rom 8:28-39; Phil 1:6; 2 Tim 4:18;

“**According to Arminianism:** Salvation is accomplished through the combined efforts of God (who takes the initiative) and man (who must respond) - man's response being the determining factor. God has provided salvation for everyone, but His provision becomes effective only for those who, of their own free will, "choose" to cooperate with Him and accept His offer of grace. At the crucial point, man's will plays a decisive role; thus man, not God, determines who will be recipients of the gift of salvation.

According to Calvinism: Salvation is accomplished by the almighty power of the Triune God. The Father chose a people, the Son died for them, the Holy Spirit makes Christ's death effective by bringing the elect to faith and repentance, thereby causing them to willingly obey the gospel. The entire process (election, redemption, regeneration) is the work of God and is by grace alone. Thus God, not man, determines who will be the recipients of the gift of salvation.” ~ From *The Five Points of CALVINISM - Defined, Defended, Documented*. By David N. Steele and Curtis Thomas.