



2023 Q & A Series
Part I—Pentecost to Protestantism
From Sermon 5.28.23

Read *Acts 2:1-4 & 41-42*

Overview from Sunday's sermon: The number one question submitted lately was to explain the difference between Calvinism and Arminianism—topics and terms that come up often. Rather than a short, incomplete overview, we turned a sermon turned into a series. This first part of church history gets us going. It shows the debate is not new to our age or the Reformation. It goes back to the beginning.

1. How long did it take for Christianity to go from birth to legalization? Almost 300 years.
2. Who is Augustine? Famous, influential bishop and theologian of the 4th and 5th centuries.
 - 2a. What was his simple, humble prayer and what issue did Pelagius take with it? Prayer: "Give what You command [O Lord], and then command whatever You will." Pelagius' issue: Why would God demand something of man that man was incapable of doing/being? That is absurd and illogical.
 3. What is at the heart of Pelagius' error? The absolute holiness of God and the utter, total depravity of man.
 - 3a. Very few follow a strict Pelagian doctrine. Instead, most of the church has settled and accepted a *semi-Pelagian* theology. Explain and discuss. Although Adam's fall/sin greatly effected a men after him, it did not utter kill the spirit. There still exists, in each person, a small vestige or island of neutrality or even righteousness that just needs to be wooed and reasoned with. Man is not dead; he is very sick or drowning. Therefore, salvation is a cooperative work: God does His part. Man does his part.
 - 3b. What did Augustine teach (that was later recovered by the Reformers)? According to Scripture itself, man is born dead in his sins. He will not accept God on his own. He cannot accept Christ on his own. Therefore, salvation is a monergistic work—all of God's doing.
4. What two main issues gave birth to the Reformation? The Bible in the common language. The practice of works (penance and indulgences—not found in the Bible) vs repentance and faith.
5. Once the Bible (the Gospel) was recovered what 5 foundational truths were also recovered? The 5 Solas: Scripture Alone, Grace Alone, Faith Alone, Christ Alone, to the Glory of God Alone.
6. Did/does Rome believe in the authority of Scripture? Yes. Scripture is not the issue. It's Scripture *alone*. They believe Tradition (Papal authority) is equally authoritative.
7. Identify and discuss the 3 unlikely catalysts of the Reformation.
 - Islam: Ottoman Empire conquests
 - Michelangelo: The cost of building and decorating St. Peter's Basilica and the Sistine Chapel.
 - Erasmus of Rotterdam: A wealthy catholic scholar. Purchased ancient manuscripts. Assembled the first parallel Bible with the Greek text next to Latin. The two didn't line up.