



Q & A: Part 3
From Sermon 7.2.23

Read *Colossian 3:12-17*

Overview from Sunday's sermon: This week finishes up our Q & A series with our third and final message. After covering Church history and the difference between Calvinism and Arminianism, this one gave us a chance to cover all other questions that were submitted. The subjects varied...but all matter.

1. As you read or heard the key verse, what characteristics of a biblical Church stand out? Various answers. But include: Love, gentleness, compassion, forgiving, peace, worship, and fellowship.

1a. In which of these traits do you see your church thriving? Various personal answers

2. In reviewing Calvinism and Arminianism, regardless of which point is being debated, where does the argument always begin? The doctrine of sin (depravity) and how Adam's fall affects everyone after him. See and discuss *Ephesians 2:1-5*.

2a. Where does the debate always end up/conclude? Does regeneration precede faith or does faith precede regeneration? See *Ephesians 2:8-10* [Note: Reformed Theology = regeneration precedes faith]

2b. Which group historically believes in election and predestination: Calvinism or Arminianism? This is a trick question that most sitting in churches would get wrong. Both groups historically believe in both election and predestination, because it is clear in Scripture.

3. From a question answered on Sunday: why is there any debate on what day Jesus was crucified? [Therefore, what day Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper]. The Jewish measuring of "a day" and the Roman definition differ. Both differ from our "midnight to midnight" description. Regardless of the system you use, it doesn't get you three days and nights, as Jesus foretold. See *Matthew 12:40*. [Note: in the end, it does not matter. God is right. Jesus died on the prescribed day, was in the grave the designated time, and did indeed rise again before sunrise on Sunday morning.]

4. New Heights fully agrees with R.C. Sproul (and the current Ligonier leaders) on Reformed Theology, the infallibility and sufficiency of Scripture, the Person, Nature, and Work of Jesus Christ, and so many other things. On which doctrines do we disagree? Various answers. Infant baptism, the Sunday Sabbath, Eschatology (End Times Prophecy and meaning), and any who hold to a "Replacement Theology".

5. Going forward as a Church (this year, the days in which we live, the darkening future) what concerns you the most? How can you keep yourself spiritually healthy, while also answering God's call to grow the Kingdom thru evangelism and ministry? Various personal answers. See *Philippians 4:6-7*

6. What is a Creed or Confession and how are they meaningful and helpful to the Church and the individual Christian? Biblical statements of doctrine and faith usually produced by historical councils that met to combat a heresy. These causes would include other books claiming to be scripture, disputes about the nature of Jesus, and many of the foundations of Reformed Theology.