

Theology At A Glance: Calvinism Vs. Arminianism

Issue	Calvinism	Arminianism
Original Sin	total depravity and guilt are inherited from Adam	only weakness is inherited from Adam
Human Will	born in bondage to sin	free to do spiritual good
Grace of God	common grace is given to all; saving grace is given to the elect	enabling grace is given to all; saving grace is given to those who believe
Predestination	rooted in God's eternal decree	rooted in God's foreknowledge
Regeneration	monergistic (unilateral)	synergistic (cooperative)
Atonement	Christ's death is a substitutionary penal sacrifice (clears our debt)	Christ's death is a sacrifice that God benevolently accepted in place of a penalty
Extent of the Atonement	intended only for the elect	intended for all
Application of the Atonement	by the power of the Holy Spirit according to the will of God	by the power of the Holy Spirit in response to the will of the sinner
Order of Salvation	election, predestination, union with Christ, calling, regeneration, faith, repentance, justification, sanctification, glorification	calling, faith, repentance, regeneration, justification, perseverance, glorification
Perseverance (<i>Eternal Security</i>)	all of the elect will persevere by God's grace alone ¹	perseverance is dependent upon our actual obedience ²

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¹ This does not mean we may continue in sin, but that everything necessary for our salvation was done by Christ. We are saved through faith alone, but not by a faith which is alone – every true believer strives to put away sin.

² Very few Arminians profess a doctrine of works. The actual question here is whether we may reasonably choose to reject Christ once we are saved? The Arminian says yes (free will); the Calvinist says no (God's sovereignty).