

**Discipleship:  
An  
Introduction to  
Systematic Theology and  
Apologetics**

**Protestant Reformation Doctrines of Salvation**

**The Heights Church November 4, 2018**

# Reformed vs Arminian Soteriology - Total Depravity (review)

- All Arminians and Calvinists affirm:
  1. Scripture alone, Faith alone and Christ alone
  2. There are a number of clear passages in the NT that affirm anyone who believes in Jesus will be saved. It is correct to interpret these verses as teaching a person comes to faith willingly and freely chooses to believe.
- But there are also a number of clear passages in the NT that affirm every person is morally unable to believe in Jesus. So does either Calvinist or Arminian Soteriology provide a comprehensive biblical solution to this paradox?

## Reformed vs Arminian Soteriology - Total Depravity (review)

The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the LORD was sorry that he had made man\* on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. (Genesis 6:5 - 6)

- The Hebrew word translated as grieved (*atsab*) means indignant rage (against sin). Jesus propitiates God' wrath against sin by his death on the cross.

\* *Anthropopathic* = depicting God in terms of human emotion. This is not an error on God's part or a plan B.

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- In Genesis 34:7 in the defiling of Dinah (*atsab*) is translated as **indignant and very angry**. In Genesis 45:5 when Joseph speaks with his brothers he says: And now do not be **distressed or angry** with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life.
- As noted in Bob's sermon last week in John 11:33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was **deeply moved** in his spirit and **greatly troubled** implies outrage or indignation against the death that caused the weeping.

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The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds, there is none who does good. The LORD looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one. (Psalm 14:1 -3)

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What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, as it is written: "**None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.**" "Their **throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive.**" "The **venom of asps is under their lips.**" "Their **mouth is full of curses and bitterness.**" "Their **feet are swift to shed blood; in their paths are ruin and misery, and the way of peace they have not known.**" "There is **no fear of God before their eyes.**" (Romans 3:9 – 18)

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For the mind that is set on the **flesh is hostile to God**, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, **it cannot**. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

(Romans 8:7-8)

For the word of **the cross is folly to those who are perishing**, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. (1 Corinthians 1:18)

The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and **he is not able to understand them** because they are spiritually discerned. (1 Corinthians 2:14)

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- And you were **dead** in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience - among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and **were by nature children of wrath**, like the rest of mankind. **But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us**, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ--by grace you have been saved-- (Ephesians 2:1-5)



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and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (Ephesians 2:6 - 10)

## Reformed vs Arminian Soteriology - Total Depravity (review)

But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. **All that the Father gives me\*** will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. **And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me\*, but raise it up on the last day.\*** **For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life\*, and I will raise him up on the last day\*.** (John 6:36 – 40)

**\*= the elect**

**\* True according to both Arminian and Calvinist teaching (*Sola fide*). The difference is how and/or why do they believe in light of Total Depravity?**

**\*All Calvinists believe this. Nearly all Arminians reject it because of “Free Will.”**

## Reformed vs Arminian Soteriology - Total Depravity

No one **can\*** (**dunamai**) come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day...It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But there are some of you who do not believe." (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) And he said, "This is why I told you that no one can (**dunamai**) come to me unless it is **granted\*\*** (**didōmi**) him by the Father." (John 6:44; 63 – 65)

\* ***Dunamai*** means to be able or have power in Greek (from the root word to do).

\*\* ***Didōmi*** is usually translated as a form of ***give*** (also from the root word to do) and in this case refers to Unconditional Election/Irresistible Grace.