

Jacob Arminius

- More info: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jacobus_Arminius
- Oct 10, 1560 – Oct 19, 1609 in Oudewater, Utrecht (Dutch)
- Orphaned, adopted by a priest named Theodorus Aemilius
 - Educated and eventually studied in the University of Leiden (1576-1582)
 - Professors (Kolmann) taught that High Calvinism made God a tyrant and executioner (re: double predestination)
 - This was a huge influence in the development of his theology
 - Ordained in 1588 and pastored in Amsterdam where he was known as a good preacher and faithful pastor.
 - Married in 1590
- Much less controversial life than John Calvin
- Jacob Arminius did not develop the “5 points of Arminianism”
 - They weren’t developed until a year after his death in 1610 at “the Remonstrance” protest.

John Wesley

- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Wesley
 - The most prominent follower of Arminianism
- Lived from June 28, 1703 – March 2, 1791
 - Anglican Cleric and Theologian
 - Founder of the Methodist church in England and the United States
 - Partnered with, ministered with, occasionally fought with but remained friends with the evangelist [George Whitefield](#) who was a Calvinist.
 - This is encouraging to me –way back in the 1700's Calvinists and Arminianists could get along and evangelize together.

Wesleyan Arminianism

- John Wesley has historically been the most influential advocate for the teachings of Arminian soteriology. Wesley thoroughly agreed with the vast majority of what Arminius himself taught, maintaining strong doctrines of original sin, total depravity, conditional election, prevenient grace, unlimited atonement, and possibly apostasy.
- Wesley departs from Classical Arminianism primarily on three issues:
 - **Atonement** – Wesley's atonement is a hybrid of the [penal substitution theory](#) and the [governmental theory](#) of [Hugo Grotius](#), a lawyer and one of the Remonstrants. Steven Harper states "Wesley does not place the substitutionary element primarily within a legal framework...**Rather [his doctrine seeks] to bring into proper relationship the 'justice' between God's love for persons and God's hatred of sin...it is not the satisfaction of a legal demand for justice so much as it is an act of mediated reconciliation.**" [19]
 - **Possibility of apostasy** – Wesley fully accepted the Arminian view that genuine Christians could apostasize and lose their salvation, as his famous sermon "A Call to Backsliders" clearly demonstrates. Harper summarizes as follows: "the act of committing sin is not in itself ground for the loss of salvation...the loss of salvation is much more related to experiences that are profound and prolonged. Wesley sees two primary pathways that could result in a permanent fall from grace: unconfessed sin and the actual expression of apostasy." [20] **Wesley disagrees with Arminius, however, in maintaining that such apostasy was not final. When talking about those who have made "shipwreck" of their faith (1 Tim 1:19), Wesley claims that "not one, or a hundred only, but I am persuaded, several thousands...innumerable are the instances...of those who had fallen but now stand upright."**[21]
 - **Christian perfection** – According to Wesley's teaching, **Christians could attain a state of practical perfection, meaning a lack of all voluntary sin by the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, in this life. Christian perfection (or entire sanctification),** according to Wesley, is "purity of intention, dedicating all the life to God" and "the mind which was in Christ, enabling us to walk as Christ walked." It is "loving God with all our heart, and our neighbor as ourselves".[22] It is "a restoration not only to the favour, but likewise to the image of God," our "being filled with the fullness of God".[23] Wesley was clear that Christian perfection did not imply perfection of bodily health or an infallibility of judgment. It also does not mean we no longer violate the will of God, for involuntary transgressions remain. Perfected Christians remain subject to temptation, and have continued need to pray for forgiveness and holiness. It is not an absolute perfection but a perfection in love. Furthermore, **Wesley did not teach a salvation by perfection, but rather says that, "Even perfect holiness is acceptable to God only through Jesus Christ."**[22]

Prominent Arminian Demoninations

- Methodist Churches
- AME Church
- AME Zion church
- Church of the Nazarene
- Uniting Church in Australia
- Many Pentecostal and Charismatic churches and denominations.

What do Arminians believe?

- Much of this information comes from:
 - <http://www3.calvarychapel.com/library/smith-chuck/books/caatwog.htm> - **CALVINISM, ARMINIANISM & THE WORD OF GOD**, A CALVARY CHAPEL PERSPECTIVE by Chuck Smith
 - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Five_articles_of_Remonstrance
- The Five Articles of Remonstrance contrast with the [Five Points of Calvinism](#) on four points and agree on one point (namely, [total depravity](#)).

FREE WILL

• 1. FREE WILL

Arminius believed that the fall of man was not total, maintaining that there was enough good left in man for him to will to accept Jesus Christ unto salvation.

- Article III affirms the [total depravity](#) of man, that man cannot save himself.
- There is agreement with Calvinists about this point.
 - [Genesis](#) 6:5: "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."
 - [Psalms](#) 51:5: "Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me."
 - [Psalms](#) 58:3: "The wicked are estranged from the womb; they go astray from birth, speaking lies."
 - [Ecclesiastes](#) 7:20: "Surely there is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins."
 - [Ecclesiastes](#) 9:3: "This is an evil in all that is done under the sun, that the same event happens to all. Also, the hearts of the children of man are full of evil, and madness is in their hearts while they live, and after that they go to the dead."
 - [Jeremiah](#) 17:9: "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?"
 - [Jeremiah](#) 13:23: (NIV): "Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots? Neither can you do good who are accustomed to doing evil."
 - [Mark](#) 7:21-23: "For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."
 - [John](#) 3:19: "And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil."
 - [John](#) 6:44: "[Jesus said,] 'No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.'"
 - [John](#) 6:64-65: "[Jesus said,] '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 come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.'"
 - [John](#) 8:34: "Jesus answered them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin.'"
 - [Romans](#) 3:10-11: "None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God."
 - [Romans](#) 8:7-8: "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."
 - [1 Corinthians](#) 2:14: "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."
 - [Ephesians](#) 2:1-3: "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."
 - [Titus](#) 3:3: "For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another."

- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Total_depravity: more info

CONDITIONAL ELECTION

• 2. CONDITIONAL ELECTION

Arminius believed that election was based on the foreknowledge of God as to who would believe. Man's "act of faith" was seen as the "condition" or his being elected to eternal life, since God foresaw him exercising his "free will" in response to Jesus Christ.

- Article I disagrees that election into Christ is unconditional. Rather, in this article the Remonstrants assert that election is conditional upon faith in Christ, and that God elects to salvation those He knows beforehand will have faith in Him.
- **Verses:**
 - Ezekiel 33:11 - And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.
 - Matthew 22:14 - For many are called, but few [are] chosen.
 - John 3: 16-17- For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.
 - Acts 16:31- So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."
 - 1 Tim 2:3-4 - And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.
 - 2 Peter 3:9 - The Lord is not slack concerning [His] promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.
 - 1Peter 1:2 - elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied.
 - Rev 22:17- And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

UNIVERSAL ATONEMENT

- **3. UNIVERSAL (unlimited) ATONEMENT**

Arminius held that redemption was based on the fact that God loves everybody, that Christ died for everyone, and that the Father is not willing that any should perish. The death of Christ provided the grounds for God to save all men, but each must exercise his own "free will" in order to be saved.

- Article II espouses [unlimited atonement](#), the concept that Christ died for all. This stands in contrast to the limited atonement of Calvinism, which asserts that Christ only died for those God chooses to be saved.
 - John 3:14-18 - "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that *whoever believes in Him* should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved *the world* that He gave His only begotten Son, that *whoever believes in Him* should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that *the world through Him might be saved*. He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."
 - 2 Cor 5:14-15 - "For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and *He died for all*, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again."
 - 1 Timothy 2:3-6 - For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who *desires all men to be saved* and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom *for all*, to be testified in due time."
 - 1 Timothy 4:10 - "For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the *Savior of all men, especially of those who believe.*"
 - Titus 2:11 (ESV) - "For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for *all people.*"
 - 2 Peter 3:9 (KJV) - "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, *not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*"
 - 1 John 2:2 - "And He [Christ] Himself is the [propitiation](#) for our sins, and not for ours only but *also for the whole world.*"

- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unlimited_atonement: more info

OBSTRUCTABLE GRACE

• 4. OBSTRUCTABLE GRACE

Arminius believed that since God wanted all men to be saved, He sent the Holy Spirit to "woo" all men to Christ, but since man has absolute "free will," he is able to resist God's will for his life. He believed that God's will to save all men can be frustrated by the finite will of man. He also taught that man exercises his own will first, and then is born again.

– Article IV repudiates the Calvinistic concept of irresistible grace, contending that mankind has the free will to resist God's grace.

– http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prevenient_grace : more info

– Verses:

- Matt 23:37 - "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under [her] wings, but you were not willing!"
- John 3:18 - "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."
- John 5:40 - "But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life."
- John 12:46-48 - "I have come [as] a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness. And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him--the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day."
- Acts 7:51-53 - "[You] stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers [did], so [do] you. Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers, who have received the law by the direction of angels and have not kept [it]."
- Rom 10:21 (quoting Isaiah 65:2) - "But to Israel he says: 'All day long I have stretched out My hands To a disobedient and contrary people.'"
- Heb 10:26 - "But to Israel he says: 'All day long I have stretched out My hands To a disobedient and contrary people.'"

FALLING FROM GRACE

- **5. FALLING FROM GRACE** If man cannot be saved by God unless it is man's will to be saved, then man cannot continue in salvation unless he continues to will to be saved.
 - Article V casts doubt on the traditional understanding of the perseverance of the saints, leaning toward the opinion that preservation of the saints is conditional upon the believer remaining in Christ. The text of the articles is given below.
 - **John 15:5-6** - I [Jesus] am the vine, you [the disciples] are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.
 - **Gal 5:4** - You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.
 - **1 Tim 4:1-2** - Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron.
 - **Heb 3:6b, 12-14** - [And we are His house] if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.... Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end.
 - **Heb 6:4-6** - For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.
 - **Heb 10:26-29** - For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?

FALLING FROM GRACE

– More Verses:

- **Heb 10:23, 35-36, 38-39** - Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.... Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise..."Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him." But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.
- **James 5:19-20** - Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.
- **2 Peter 2:20-22** - For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: "A dog returns to his own vomit," and, "a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire."
- **2 Peter 3:17** - You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked.
- **2 John 1:8-9** - Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but that we may receive a full reward. Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.
- **Rev 2:4,5** - Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.
- **Rev 3:5** - He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.
- **Rev 3:16-17** - So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conditional_Preservation_of_the_Saints

My opinion

- I agree with Pastor Chuck when He says
 - It is not our purpose to take sides on these issues or to divide the body of Jesus Christ over human interpretations of these Biblical truths concerning our salvation.
 - I am not going to suggest that I have this all figured out
 - I wouldn't presume to say that I know more than some of the great men who have taken sides on the matter.
 - Luther, Calvin, Wesley, Spurgeon, Whitefield
 - Recently: McArthur, Piper, Tozer
 - I'm not even in the same zip code as these guys
 - » Biblical Scholarship
 - » Time in study, Ministry
- Depravity – no argument, see the verses above. We are sinners (Rom 3:23), we cant save ourselves (Eph 2:8-9)

My opinion

- Election:
 - No question about election – too many verses that mention it.
 - Question is... how did it happen?
 - Calvinists : God Chose
 - happened before creation
 - God segregated all people into 2 groups
 - » You guys get saved
 - » You guys don't
 - Arminians: Man chose
 - God looked into the future, saw who would believe
 - The believers became the Elect
 - What's the “net effect?”
 - There is a group of people who would be saved
 - God knew who they would be

My opinion

- Atonement: Closely tied to election is atonement
 - Calvinists:
 - Jesus death only atoned for the Elect
 - One of my favorite Calvinists (Mark Driscoll) had an interesting take on this:
 - His view is “unlimited, limited atonement”
 - » Because he understands the heart of God
 - » God loves everyone, God invites everyone saying “Come to Me”
 - » That invitation is happens when we preach the Gospel
 - Arminians:
 - Jesus died for all, atonement is effective for all that accept it.
 - Net Effect?
 - The elect (however it happened) are redeemed by the blood of Jesus
 - Whether it is the elect that are chosen or the elect who believed and received

My opinion

- Grace:
 - Can it be resisted or not?
 - Plenty of verses on both sides
- I am glad I am saved
 - I was saved by grace thru faith
- I want to give others the chance to believe what I believe
 - I need to be involved in the great commission
 - Preach the Gospel, Baptize believers, make disciples and teach the Word.

My opinion

- Can you lose your salvation
 - Lose? No
 - Walk away: look at the verses above and pray thru it.
 - We shouldn't live in fear
 - God doesn't give us a spirit of fear
 - We should rejoice in our salvation
 - We should trust that Jesus is holding on to us tightly
 - We should stick to the truth we heard when we believed
 - If its possible to walk away
 - then we should hope Wesley was right and it is something we can change our minds about.