

IS SALVATION WHOLLY OF GOD, OR DOES IT ULTIMATELY DEPEND ON OUR DECISION?

PELAGIANISM	SEMI-PELAGIANISM (ARMINIANISM)	AUGUSTINIANISM (CALVINISM)
Named after Pelagius, a monk (c. 354-420)	Named after Dutch theologian Jacobus Arminius (1560-1609)	Named after Augustine (“St. Augustine”) (c. 354-430)
Adam’s Fall affected Adam alone. Human will is not negatively affected by the Fall.	The Fall and original sin affects all, but man’s will is not completely fallen.	Human will is completely fallen. Man cannot refrain from sin.
There is no such thing as original sin.	Man is not dead in trespasses and sin, only sick. He is not totally enslaved to sin or totally depraved in his nature.	Man is dead in trespasses and sin.
The single most important element in salvation is man’s free will.	The single most important element in salvation is man’s free will.	Salvation is all of grace from beginning to end. God initiates it, not fallen man, and even faith is a gift from God.
Man can achieve sinless moral perfection, through his own efforts. Therefore grace is not necessary for salvation. Man can earn salvation by his works independent of God.	Grace is necessary for salvation, but man still has a remnant of virtue hidden in his soul whereby he can accept or reject God’s offer of salvation. He has the moral power to incline himself, without operative grace, to the things of God.	Man is so completely darkened in his heart, mind and will by sin that he is unable to turn from sin and embrace the truth of the Gospel and obey God’s commandments. Only by God’s direct intervention is a person able to put his faith in Christ and set his mind on what the Spirit desires.
The ultimate decision of who is to be saved belongs to man, not God. Man has free will to accept or reject Christ. In order to be saved man must exercise faith by the exertion of his will. The work of the Holy Spirit is not a necessary precondition for faith.	The ultimate decision of who is to be saved belongs to man, not God. Man has free will to accept or reject Christ. In order to be saved man must exercise faith by the exertion of his will. The work of the Holy Spirit is not a necessary precondition for faith.	The ultimate decision of who is to be saved belongs to God. Since God is sovereign, free will is a myth. Man’s will is never free; it is enslaved either to Satan or the Holy Spirit.
Condemned as heresy by the church Council of Orange (529).	Differs only in degree from Pelagianism. Condemned as heresy by the Synod of Dort (1618-1619).	The historic Christian position, upheld by the Synod of Dort and other church councils.
	Taught by most evangelical churches today.	Formerly taught by almost all Christian churches, today held only by a few Reformed denominations.

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Sources: *Creeks of the Churches*, John H. Leith; Ligonier Ministries *Tabletalk* 3/21/96; *Captive Hearts, Captive Church*, by R.C. Sproul; *Christianity Yesterday* Nov/Dec 1994