

Limited Atonement

Reformation Basics

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I. Introduction (Gen 14:8-17)

II. Trinitarian TULIP

“For of Calvinism there is really only one point to be made in the field of soteriology: the point that God saves sinners. God – the Triune Jehovah, Father, Son, and Spirit; three Persons working together in sovereign wisdom, power and love to achieve the salvation of a chosen people, the Father electing, the Son fulfilling the Father’s will by redeeming, the Spirit executing the purpose of the Father and Son by renewing. Saves – does everything, first to last, that is involved in bringing man from death in sin to life in glory: plans, achieves and communicates redemption, calls and keeps, justifies, sanctifies, glorifies. Sinners – men as God finds them, guilty, vile, helpless, powerless, blind, unable to lift a finger to do God’s will or better their spiritual lot. God saves sinners – and the force of this confession may not be weakened by disrupting the unity of the work of the Trinity, or by dividing the achievement of salvation between God and man and making the decisive part man’s own, or by soft-pedaling the sinner’s inability so as to allow him to share the praise of his salvation with his Saviour. This is the one point of Calvinistic soteriology which the ‘five points’ are concerned to establish and Arminianism in all its form to deny: namely, that sinners do not save themselves in any sense at all, but that salvation, first and last, whole and entire, past, present and future, is of the Lord, to whom be glory for ever; amen!”

III. A Definite People

A. I lay down my life for my sheep (Jn 10:11-16)

B. I pray for them (Jn 17:9-11)

C. Orchestrated, Accomplished, Applied (Rom 8:29-30)

IV. The Question is NOT...

- A. Does God as Creator pity all those who rebel against Him and spurn His lawful authority? (cf. Ezek 33:11)
- B. Is Christ's death capable of covering the sins of all?
- C. Did Christ die for a vast multitude that no man can number that will inhabit all the world before the end of human history? (Rev 7:9-10)

V. The Question IS...What is the Nature of the Atonement?

A. Hypothetical Salvation

B. Actual Salvation

1. Propitiation (1 Jn 2:2)

To propitiate is to turn away _____.

2. Substitution (2 Cor 5:14-15, 21; Gal 3:13-14; 1 Pet 3:18)

Jesus died as the _____ for his people, he died in their place.

The Calvinist will not say *“that God’s saving purpose in the death of his Son was a mere ineffectual wish, depending for its fulfillment on man’s willingness to believe, so that for all God could do Christ might have died and none been saved at all. He insists that the Bible sees the cross as revealing God’s power to save, not his impotence. Christ did not win a hypothetical salvation for hypothetical believers, a mere possibility of salvation for any who might possibly believe, but a real salvation for his own chosen people...[The cross’s] saving power does not depend on faith being added to it; its saving power is such that faith flows from it.”*

VI. So What Does this Mean?

A. Behold the Love of God!

B. Our Warrior King (Ps 130:3-4; Is 25:9)