

A Display of Arminianism

John Owen

Chapter 6

When one thinks of the difference between Calvinism and Arminianism the topic of predestination is typically seen as the main issue.

Article 17 (Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion)

Predestination to Life is the everlasting purpose of God, whereby (before the foundations of the world were laid) he hath constantly decreed by his counsel secret to us, to deliver from curse and damnation those whom he hath chosen in Christ out of mankind, and to bring them by Christ to everlasting salvation, as vessels made to honor...

Predestination to Life comes from the _____ and _____ decree of God

“The article, consonantly to the Scripture, affirmeth that it is an eternal decree, made before the foundations of the world were laid; so that by it we must needs be chosen before we were born, before we have done either good or evil.”

However, the Arminian position sees predestination (and God’s decree) as coming _____ a person’s faith (and continued perseverance). Therefore, Owen claims that the Arminians don’t really hold to “pre”-destination but instead hold to “post-destination”.

In their confession the Arminians write, *“There are three orders of believers and repenters in Scripture, whereof some are beginners, others having continued for a time, and some perseverants. The first two orders are chosen truly, but not absolutely, but only for a time, so long as they remain as they are; the third are chosen finally: for this act of God is either continued or interrupted, according as we fulfil the condition.”*

Therefore, they conclude, God’s absolute predestination rests not upon God’s eternal immutable decree but upon the _____ in man to persevere in his faith.

Predestination to life involves a _____ group of people that God has chosen out from the many for Himself according to His own _____

“The object of this predestination is some particular men chosen out of mankind; that is, it is such an act of God as concerneth some men in particular; taking them, as it were, aside from the midst of their brethren, and designing them for some special end and purpose.”

However, the Arminian position does not see God as choosing or electing certain persons in _____ as the foundation of salvation. They write, *“We deny that God’s election extendeth itself to any singular persons as singular persons.”*

“Another thing that the article asserteth according to the Scripture is, that there is no cause of our election but God’s own counsel. It recounteth no motives in us, nothing impelling the will of God to choose some out of mankind, rejecting others, but His own decree,--that is, His absolute will and good pleasure...”

However, the Arminian position claims God chooses people because they obey His call to have faith. Therefore, their _____ is the ground of their election. As one of their leaders wrote, *“The one only absolute cause of election is, not the will of God, but the respect of our obedience.”* Since God waits to see if one’s faith will last and truly bear the fruit of good works before finally electing them at the end, we can conclude then that God elects based upon a persons faith and works (the things we can do for Him). As one of their authors wrote, *“That there is no decree of saving men but what is built on God’s foreknowledge of the good actions of men.”* They hold that God’s love _____ the good works of men.

Rebuttal

**Scripture teaches that predestination is according to the will and _____
_____ of God not upon anything in man**

-The words of Moses-Deuteronomy 7:7-8

-The words of Jesus-Matthew 11:25-27 & Luke 12:32

-The words of Paul-Romans 9:11, Ephesians 1:11, 2 Timothy 1:9

“When God and man stand in competition who shall be accounted the cause of an eternal good, we may be sure the Scripture will pass the verdict on the part of the Most High.”

For grace to be grace it must be a _____ and come before anything from or in us.

The Scriptures declare that the Father’s love is the _____ point of salvation.

Cause always comes _____ effect. For the effect(s) of salvation to be evidenced in our life, faith, obedience, repentance, etc. there must be a cause which produces these effects in us.

If God elects because of people’s faith then: election is not of Him that calleth (Rom. 9:11), God cannot have mercy on whom He will have mercy, God is not a _____ agent able but is a potter bound to the will of the clay.

The Scriptures declare that God sees only _____ and _____ in us.

The _____ of salvation come from our election (Eph. 1:4)