

A Display of Arminianism

John Owen

Chapter 9

Owen has already dealt with the issues of immutability and eternity of God's decrees, divine foreknowledge, providence, the divine will, predestination, original sin, and the nature of Adam before the fall. We now come to the central issue in Christianity-the death of Christ. There are two questions that frame this chapter.

1. Who did Christ die for? Arminian answer: Christ died for _____ people

"The Arminians answer...that Christ died for all alike...God had no such intention of bringing many chosen sons unto salvation by the death of Christ, but determined of grace and glory no more precisely to one than to another, to John than Judas, Abraham than Pharoah..."

Rebuttal

1. Christ died to ratify and _____ a new covenant
2. The Scriptures refer to the _____ of God as "the elect", "the church", His "sheep"
3. If Christ died for all, then He was also raised for all, a _____ for all
4. If Christ died for everyone then how can God's _____ remain on any?
5. Christ says He died for those the Father _____ Him (John 17:6)
6. If was God's _____ that sent the Son-therefore God cannot love and _____ the same people at the same time.

2. What did Christ accomplish with His death? Arminian answer: Nothing _____ but only _____

"Though the Arminians pretend that Christ died for all men, yet, in effect, they make Him die for no one man at all and that by denying the effectual operations of His death, and ascribing the proper issues of His passion to the brave endeavors of their own Pelagian deity."

They write, *"The immediate and proper effect or end of the death and passion of Christ is, not an actual ablation of sin from men, not an actual remission of iniquities, justification and redemption of any soul."*

They argued that the death of Christ only opened the potentiality for salvation. They write, *"Christ cannot be said properly to die to save anyone...after Christ had obtained all that He did obtain by His death, the right remained wholly in God to apply it, or not to apply it, as it should seem good unto Him, the application of grace and glory to any man was not the end for which Christ obtained them, but to get a right and power unto God of bestowing those things on what sort of men He would."*

“The death of Christ might have enjoyed its end, or His merit its full force, although never any had believed...the death and satisfaction of Christ being accomplished, it might come to pass that, none fulfilling the condition of the new covenant, none should be saved.”

Arminius writes, *“He died as well for Simon Magus and Judas as He did for Peter and Paul.”*

Rebuttal

1. The Scriptures declare that Christ actually _____ salvation for the elect by His death

“It is clear that Christ died to procure for us an actual reconciliation with God, and not only a power for us to be reconciled unto Him (Rom. 5:10). We enjoy an actual reconciliation unto God by His death.”

2. The Scriptures declare that Christ actually _____ all the fruits of salvation for the elect by His death

“So that Christ by His death obtained what He did intend, He hath purchased for us not only a possibility of salvation, but holiness, righteousness, reconciliation with God, justification, freedom from the guilt and condemning power of sin, everlasting redemption, eternal life and glory in heaven.” (Hebrews 1:3, 9:12, Col. 1:21-22, 2 Cor. 5:21)

3. Owen’s third objection is to appeal to the _____ of the believer and he asks three questions

-Does the Arminian position strengthen the foundation of your _____ or weaken it?

-Does the Arminian position strengthen your _____ and _____ in Christ or weaken it?

“Whether they think it not a ready way to impair their love and to weaken their faith in Christ, when they shall be taught that Christ hath done no more for them than for those that are damned in hell...That God loveth us not first, but so long as we continue in a state of enmity against Him, before our conversion, He continues our enemy also, so that the first act of friendship or love must be performed on our part...”

-Does the Arminian position _____ Christ more or less than the historic position?

“I would desire all the lovers of Jesus Christ seriously to consider whether these men do truly aim at His honor and advancing the dignity of His merit, and not rather at the crying up of their own endeavors, seeing the sole cause of their denying these glorious effects of the blood of Christ is to appropriate the praise of them unto themselves.”