

Simplified Definitions: Salvation

Synergism

The co-operation between God and man equally in salvation.

Monergism

Salvation is the work of God alone.

Pelagianism

Man saves himself. Man can obey God's law by human faith and will and do good. There is no original sin.

Semi-Pelagianism

Man has some power to do good but needs grace to be saved; man initiates this grace. Man is not dead in sin but weakened by sin. The human will co-operates with the Spirit in regeneration; free will triggers grace.

Arminianism (a variety of Semi-Pelagianism)

Man and God co-operate in salvation. Man has free will and initiates salvation by choosing Christ. Man is not totally depraved.

Evangelical Arminianism (Wesleyanism, similar to Semi-Augustinianism)

Man is totally depraved and thus needs grace to cause a decision. This prevenient grace is given to all men but only some use it. Salvation is up to man's free will but grace triggers it.

Romanism (a variety of Semi-Pelagianism)

Man and God co-operate in salvation. Man is not totally depraved but needs grace. Man co-operates with the Roman Church in order to be saved. Salvation is transmitted by the sacraments; grace comes via the church. Meritorious works for justification.

Calvinism (cf. Augustinianism)

God is sovereign in salvation; man cannot contribute any work. Affirmation of the Doctrines of Grace (TULIP).

Amyraldism (cf. Four-Point Calvinism, the Free Offer, Marrow Theology, Neonomianism)

The hypothetical view that God loves everyone and Jesus died for everyone, but men do not repent and get saved. Therefore, God intervenes and chooses the elect for salvation. Calvinism blended with Arminian justification (man decides by an act of human faith) and mediate regeneration (the Spirit illuminates the intellect but not the will).

Legalism

Salvation by human works; man's ability to fully obey the law of God.

Universalism

The doctrine that all people get saved eventually; hell is denied.

Annihilationism

The idea that after death there is nothing. When men die they evaporate into nothingness. No heaven and no hell.