

**Discipleship:
An
Introduction to
Systematic Theology and
Apologetics**

Protestant Reformation Doctrines of Salvation

The Heights Church September 30, 2018

The Fall – Augustine of Hippo’s Definition of Original (inherited) Sin

	Humanity as created	Fallen Humanity	Modern Definition/ <i>Latin</i> <i>term</i>
Free Agency (<i>Liberty*</i>)	yes	yes	Ability to choose whatever is most pleasing.
Free Will (<i>Moral Liberty*</i>)	yes	no	Ability to chose any available moral option.
Able to sin	yes	yes	<i>Posse peccare</i>
Able to not sin	yes	no	<i>Posse non pecarre</i>
Unable to not sin	no	yes	<i>Non posse non peccare</i>

* Augustine’s original words

Key Protestant Reformation Doctrines – The Fall – five possibilities

1. **Pelagianism: The Fall does not affect anyone but Adam.**

- Every naturally born person has the same status as Adam and can choose to believe or not believe in Christ.
- **Condemned by the Council of Carthage in 418.**

2. **Baptismal Regeneration: Adam's Fall affects every naturally born person.**

- Baptizing a child removes the effect of the Fall and permanently resets the recipient's status to Adam's status before the Fall.
- Current view of Roman Catholic's and most Lutheran's.
- **Rejected by the Reformers and the Five Sola's**

Key Protestant Reformation Doctrines – The Fall – five possibilities

3. **Semi-Pelagianism: Adam's Fall affects every naturally born person.**

- People are not free to do good or choose good or evil, but they are at least free to make the first move to God, and believe in God their by own native strength.
- As a result they are restored by God's grace to Adam's pre – Fall status.
- **Condemned by the Council of Orange in 529.**
- **The Reformer's recognized that Rome had become Semi-Pelagian**

The Fall - Second Council of Orange 529

- The Second Council of Orange rejected Semi-Pelagianism (free will is not totally lost so everyone is able to freely choose to sin or not sin) and also issued 25 Canons concluding them as follows.

And thus according to the passages of holy scripture quoted above or the interpretations of the ancient Fathers we must, under the blessing of God, preach and believe as follows. The sin of the first man has so **impaired and weakened free will** that no one thereafter can either love God as he ought or believe in God or do good for God's sake, **unless** the grace of divine mercy **has preceded him**. We therefore believe that the glorious faith which was given to Abel the righteous, and Noah, and Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and to all the saints of old, and which the Apostle Paul commends in extolling them (Heb. 11), was not given through natural goodness as it was before to Adam, but was bestowed by the grace of God. And we know and also believe that even after the coming of our Lord this grace is not to be found in the free will of all who desire to be baptized, but is bestowed by the kindness of Christ,

Key Protestant Reformation Doctrines – The Fall – five possibilities

4. **Arminianism: Adam's Fall affects every naturally born person.**

- People are not so depraved that they cannot naturally seek God because God extends his prevenient grace to every person, giving them all the moral ability to choose to believe or not to believe.
- God's election is based on his foreseeing the faith they would come to in time.
- The atonement of Christ was intended for every person on earth, but whether it will actually be applied to anyone in particular rests upon their free decision to believe or not to believe.
- God's grace is sufficient to enable people to believe if they so choose, but does not necessitate faith.
- After a person has come to a genuine saving faith in Christ, they are still free to turn aside and fall away from grace, and so be eternally lost.
- **Condemned by the Synod of Dort (Dordrecht) in 1619.**

Key Protestant Reformation Doctrines – The Fall – five possibilities

5. Reformed Theology: Adam's Fall affects every naturally born person.

- Response of the Synod of Dort (1618 – 1619) to objections raised by the followers of Jacob Arminius to The Belgic Confession.
 1. **Total Depravity** – As a result of the Fall every naturally born person is morally unable to believe in Jesus.
 2. **Unconditional Election** – God graciously, and sovereignly chose before the creation who he would bring to saving faith (the elect) . His choice was not based upon any merit of the elect.
 3. **Limited Atonement** – While Christ's work on the cross and his sinless life was sufficient to save every person it is only efficacious for the elect.
 4. **Irresistible Grace** – God effectually calls the elect to saving faith. This call cannot be resisted.
 5. **Perseverance of the Saints** – God preserves the elect's faith in Christ so that the elect cannot loose their salvation.