

Doctrine of the Five Points of Arminianism

1. Jacob Hermann was a Dutch theologian who lived from 1560 to 1609. He was best known by the Latin form of his last name--Arminius.
2. Although he was reared in the reformed tradition and taught in a Calvinistic seminary, Arminius had serious questions about sovereign grace as it was preached by the Reformers.
3. Several years after his death his students, called Arminians, formulated his concerns into five main points which they presented to the Dutch Parliament which had subscribed to the Reformed Doctrines of the Belgic and Heidelberg Confessions.
4. This "Remonstrance" was presented to the State of Holland and in 1618, a National Synod of the Church was convened in Dort to consider the teachings of Arminius in light of the Word of God.
5. After 154 sessions which lasted seven month The Five Points of the Remonstrance were found to be contrary to the Scripture and were declared heretical.
6. The Five Points of the Remonstrance may be summarized:
 - **FREE WILL.** Arminianism teaches that man has a free will. The fall of man was not total. There is enough good left in man for him to will to accept Christ unto salvation.
 - **CONDITIONAL ELECTION.** Arminianism teaches that election is based upon the foreknowledge of God that certain persons will believe. Man's act of faith is the condition for his being elected to eternal life, as God foresees him exercising his free will in positive volition towards Christ.
 - **UNIVERSAL ATONEMENT.** Arminianism teaches that God loves everybody without distinction and without exception and Christ died for everyone. Redemption was general not specific. The death of Christ provided grounds for God to save all men just as long as each person exercises his free will to accept Christ.
 - **OBSTRUCTABLE GRACE.** Arminianism teaches that since God wants all men to be saved, He has sent the Holy Spirit to woo all men to Christ. However, since man has free will he is able to resist God's will for his life. Finite man on an individual basis resisting the calling of the Holy Spirit will and can frustrate God's omnipotent.
 - **FALL FROM GRACE.** Arminianism teaches that it is possible for a saved person in a state of grace to sin in such as way as to fall from grace and to be forever lost.