

The Doctrines of Grace

4. Limited Atonement (Particular Redemption)



Question:

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“Will there be people in hell for whom Christ died?”

The Arminians' 'Remonstrance' (formal objection) against the teachings of the Belgic Confession (1566)

Stated in five points.

Answered by the Synod of Dort in five points.

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The "Five Points of Orthodoxy"!

What did the Arminians believe about Christ's work of redemption on the cross?

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“Christ's redeeming work made it possible for everyone to be saved, but did not actually secure the salvation of anyone. Although Christ died for all men and for every man, only those who believe in him are saved. His death enabled God to pardon sinners on the condition that they believe, but it did not actually put away anyone's sins. Christ's redemption becomes effective only if man chooses to accept it.”

(Steele, Thomas & Quinn, The Five Points of Calvinism, 2nd ed., p.6f.)

**“Limited Atonement”
 (“Particular Redemption”)**

Jesus did not die for all, but for those whom God had chosen; his atonement was actually effective in accomplishing their salvation – it did not just make it possible.

But isn't Jesus the Saviour of the WORLD?

But isn't Jesus the Saviour of the WORLD? Yes!

John 1:29 - The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

John 4:42 - They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Saviour of the world."

1John 2:2 - He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

Yes, he is actually the Saviour of the world (cosmos)

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not just potentially...

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In this verse, the word “for” is not (Greek) *huper*, meaning ‘instead of,’ or ‘in the place of.’

It’s *peri*, meaning ‘about,’ or ‘concerning.’

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Jn.10:14-15 - “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep.”

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V.16 – “I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.”

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Answer: For his sheep.

Question: How do we recognize these sheep for whom he died on the cross?

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Answer: “My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand” (John 10:27-28)

Question: Where do these sheep come from?

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John 6:37-40 – “All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.”

Question: Why do they come to Jesus?

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John 6:44 – “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.”

John 10:26-27 – “... but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.”

Summary of what we have found:

Jesus died for his sheep—the ones who receive him and follow him.

- (a) He did not die for every person, but only for his sheep.**
- (b) These are people whom the Father chose and gave to his Son to be his sheep.**
- (c) The Father draws the sheep to Jesus, so that they all hear and follow him.**
- (d) Those whom God the Father chose, God the Son came to die for. There is unity of purpose in the Godhead.**

