

Our Church and Others – Comparing Protestants

This table summarizes the classical views of three different Protestant beliefs about salvation!

Topic	Lutheranism	Calvinism – <u>TULIP</u>	Arminianism
Human will	Total Depravity without free will <i>until</i> spiritual regeneration (God must first regenerate/save in Christ – Ephesians 2:1-5; then a Christian can cooperate with the Holy Spirit in living for Christ)	<u>Total Depravity</u> without free will <i>permanently</i> due to the nature of divine <u>sovereignty</u> (God’s ultimate power and control over all things)	Total depravity, <i>with prevenient grace</i> , does not preclude (or prevent) free will (instead, prevenient grace allows a non-believer to engage his God-given free will to choose the salvation offered by God in Jesus Christ)
Election	Unconditional election <i>to salvation only</i> (God predestines to eternal life – Ephesians 1:4-6, but not to eternal damnation, thus single predestination)	<u>Unconditional Election</u> to <i>salvation</i> with those outside the elect foreordained (or predestined) to damnation (thus double predestination)	Conditional election on the basis of foreseen faith or unbelief (so God looked ahead to see who would choose Christ; then elected those people)
Justification	Justification of all people made available at Christ’s death (objective justification; Jesus died for all – John 1:29; 1 John 2:2)	<u>Limited Atonement</u> , so justification is limited to those predestined to salvation, completed at Christ’s death (Jesus did not die for all, only for those predestined to eternal life)	Justification made possible for all through Christ’s death, but only completed upon placing faith in Jesus (upon choosing Him as Savior)
Conversion	Monergistic (by God alone), through the means of grace (Baptism and Bible), <i>resistible</i> (we can resist but not accept)	<u>Irresistible Grace</u> Monergistic (by God alone), through the inner calling of the Holy Spirit (not through means), <i>irresistible</i> (man cannot resist nor accept)	Synergistic (God enabling man to choose), <i>resistible</i> due to the common, sufficient grace of free will (man can resist or accept)
Preservation (continuing) and Apostasy (falling away)	Falling away is possible (Mt. 24:10; 1Ti 6:10), but reflection on one’s faith provides assurance of preservation (my trust is in Jesus alone, so I know I am saved – 1 John 5:11-13)	<u>Perseverance of the Saints</u> : the eternally elect in Christ will necessarily persevere in faith and subsequent holiness until the end (true Christians cannot fall away)	Preservation is conditional upon continued faith in Christ; reflection on one’s faith provides assurance

(Adapted from <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Calvinism>)

Martin Luther; 10 November 1483 – 18 February 1546) was a German professor of [theology](#), composer, priest, monk,^[2] and a seminal figure in the Protestant [Reformation](#).

Luther came to reject several teachings and practices of the [Roman Catholic Church](#). He strongly disputed the Catholic view on [indulgences](#) as he understood it to be, that freedom from God's punishment for sin could be purchased with money. Luther proposed an academic discussion of the practice and efficacy of [indulgences](#) in his *Ninety-five Theses* of 1517. His refusal to renounce all of his writings at the demand of [Pope Leo X](#) in 1520 and the [Holy Roman Emperor Charles V](#) at the [Diet of Worms](#) in 1521 resulted in his [excommunication](#) by the [Pope](#) and condemnation as an [outlaw](#) by the [Emperor](#).

Luther taught that [salvation](#) and, consequently, eternal life are not earned by good deeds but are received only as the free gift of God's [grace](#) through the believer's [faith](#) in [Jesus Christ](#) as redeemer from sin. His [theology](#) challenged the authority and office of the Pope by teaching that the [Bible](#) is the [only source of divinely revealed knowledge](#) from God^[3] and opposed [sacerdotalism](#) [the requirement of priests] by considering [all baptized Christians to be a holy priesthood](#).^[4] Those who identify with these, and all of Luther's wider teachings, are called [Lutherans](#), though Luther insisted on *Christian* or *Evangelical* as the only acceptable names for individuals who professed Christ.

His [translation of the Bible](#) into the German [vernacular](#) (instead of [Latin](#)) made it more accessible to the laity, an event that had a tremendous impact on both the church and German culture. It fostered the development of a standard version of the [German language](#), added several principles to the art of translation,^[5] and influenced the writing of an English translation, the [Tyndale Bible](#).^[6] His [hymns](#) influenced the development of singing in Protestant churches.^[7] His marriage to [Katharina von Bora](#), a former nun, set a model for the practice of [clerical marriage](#), allowing Protestant [clergy](#) to marry.^[8]

John Calvin, 10 July 1509 – 27 May 1564) was an influential [French theologian](#), [pastor](#) and [reformer](#) in [Geneva](#) during the [Protestant Reformation](#). He was a principal figure in the development of the system of [Christian theology](#) later called [Calvinism](#), aspects of which include the doctrines of [predestination](#) and of the [absolute sovereignty](#) of God in [salvation](#) of the human soul from death and [eternal damnation](#), in which doctrines Calvin was influenced by and elaborated upon the [Augustinian](#) and other Christian traditions. Various [Congregational](#), [Reformed](#), [Reformed Baptists](#) and [Presbyterian](#) churches, which look to Calvin as the chief expositor of their beliefs, have spread throughout the world.

Five Christian denominations that identify with Calvinist beliefs:

- Primitive Baptist or Reformed Baptist Churches
- Presbyterian Churches
- Reformed Churches
- The United Church of Christ
- The Protestant Reformed Churches in America

Jacobus Arminius, (October 10, 1560 – October 19, 1609), the [Latinized](#) name of the [Dutch theologian](#) [Jakob Hermanszoon](#) from the [Protestant Reformation](#) period, served from 1603 as professor in theology at the [University of Leiden](#). He wrote many books and treatises on theology, and his views became the basis of [Arminianism](#) and the Dutch [Remonstrant](#) movement.

Five Christian denominations that identify with Arminian beliefs:

- American Baptist Churches USA
- The United Methodist Church
- Wesleyan Churches
- Pentecostal Churches
- The Church of the Nazarene