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Summary of Calvinist/Arminian Controversy Factors

- 1. There is a longstanding, critical difference in theology between the two factions
- 2. The doctrinal principles of God's word have only <u>one true meaning</u>.
- 3. Any interpretation contrary to Item 2, is provably wrong.
- 4a. Calvinistic gospel doctrine dates back to its New Testament origin.
- 4b. Arminian gospel doctrine is traceable, notably, to Pelagius in the 3-4th century.
- 5a. Calvinism is <u>literal</u> gospel truth, according to the word of <u>God</u>.
- 5b.. Arminianism is <u>liberal</u> gospel philosophy, according to the word of <u>man</u>.
- 6. Arminian indoctrination has extensively <u>corrupted</u> the church.
- 7a. Calvinism speaks for God.
- 7b. Arminianism speaks against God.
- 8a. Arminians have been duped by Satan's wiles ("Hath God said?").
- 8b. Arminians minds are, therefore, at least partially subject to Satan's will.
- 9a. The Calvinist gospel doctrine is a product of the <u>spiritual</u> mind (the new nature) of believers.
- 9b. The Arminian gospel concept is a product of the <u>natural</u> mind (the old nature) of believers.
- 10a. Calvinists are students, and testifiers of God's gospel principles.
- 10b. Arminians are judges, and revisers of God's gospel principles.

Have you ever thought of the inconsistency of Arminian Christians, being conservative (usually) in their political principles, but liberal in their gospel beliefs? A profile of Arminian gospel doctrine, clearly identifies them as radically liberal. Consider their unconscionable revision of at least four of the five Calvinist' "TULIP"scriptural principles, as well as other associated doctrinal truths.

Arminian Liberalized Gospel Factors

<u>T</u>. <u>Total Depravity</u> (including total inability to exercise believing faith)), is revised to limited, or less severe depravity–allowing for the assumption of a "free will' capacity to believe the gospel.

<u>U.</u> <u>Unconditional Election</u>. The basis is changed from the <u>guaranteed salvation</u> of certain chosen ones, to the <u>possible salvation</u> of anyone, based on divine <u>foresight</u> of those who <u>would</u> believe the gospel.

<u>L</u>. <u>Limited Atonement</u>, is modified to general, or universal atonement vs. applying only to the elect.

I. <u>Irresistible Grace</u>, is completely altered to mean <u>resistible grace</u>–a reversal of God's principle.

P.. Perseverance. Most Arminians agree with this eternal security principle, but Arminius

taught that a believer could fall from grace.

Other Wrong Doctrinal Assumptions

1. <u>God's love</u>, is extended beyond the elect to all the world–mainly because of failing to correctly understand the doctrinal truth of the objects of God's love, and by making the simplistically wrong choice of variant uses of the word "world", and related terms. Also, ignoring context of those words–which, in scripture relating to salvation, may safely be said to always mean the elect Gentiles, whom the Jews traditionally referred to as the "world".

2. <u>Condemnation to hell</u> is, by Arminian interpretation, predicated upon <u>unbelief of the gospel</u>, <u>or saving grace</u>, instead of <u>original sin</u>. A radical presumption, to support their false theology.

3. <u>Prayer</u>. The Arminian, free will position holds that unredeemed man has access to God (the throne of grace), in contradiction of the truth that only Christians, through Christ as intermediary, are permitted to come to Him in prayer.

4. <u>Belief of the gospel</u>. A basic claim of Arminians, is that natural man has the ability to exercise saving faith, versus the Calvinist literal doctrinal truth, that faith, or belief is a result of spiritual regeneration, not a prerequisite, or preliminary to it!

5. <u>Basis of interpretation</u>. The Arminian scheme relies heavily on their assumption that certain grammatical terms, or words, establish the application of the gospel–even though the variant nature of those words necessitates the determination of text, and context to correctly interpret the doctrine involved.

In summary of Items 1-15, plus TULIP, and related doctrine 1-5, the following comparative critique is offered.

Salvation principles, as with any doctrinal subject, must be diligently studied so that their meanings and chronological, and priority order can be recognized and established, understanding also, that the various elements involved harmonize with each other. The whole realm of biblical doctrine is an exact science, not open to theory, or opinion, or any divergent interpretations–and is required to be learned, proclaimed, and lived in faithful accordance with, by every genuine believer.

Whereas, the Arminian system of beliefs violates nearly every aspect of those essential facts, and required faithfulness to them. In a concise comparison, or contrast, the two opposing positions may be stated as, (1) Calvinism is true gospel theology, and (2) Arminianism is false gospel philosophy. A completely objective study of gospel principles, will bear out the truth of that statement. All that stands in the way, is the <u>will</u> to do it, as it should have been done originally, and we wouldn't be involved in the doctrinal dilemma we are in today!

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