



Agros: Find, Train, Support

12/17/23 Farm Team Gathering
“Shop Talk” Discussion Guide

The Reformed Doctrine of Predestination by Loraine Boettner

Apologetics for Objections to the Doctrine (chp. 15-22)

- Definition: “God from all eternity did by the most wise and holy council of His own will, freely and unchangeably ordain whatsoever comes to pass; yet so as thereby neither is God the author of sin, nor is violence offered to the will of the creatures, nor is the liberty or contingency of second causes taken away, but rather established.” (*WCF*, 3.1) What does this mean? Do you agree? Why/why not?
- Boettner claims these as foundations of the Calvinist system: God has a plan (chp. 3), The Sovereignty of God (chp. 4), The Providence of God (chp. 5), and The Foreknowledge of God (chp. 6). Are each of these doctrines compatible with both Arminian and Calvinist systems? Why/why not?
- Is the following a fair definition of the Arminian position? “Arminianism – which holds that Christ died equally and indiscriminately for every individual of mankind, for those who perish no less than for those who are saved: that election is not an eternal and unconditional act of God; that saving grace is offered to every man, which grace he may receive or reject just as he pleases; that man may successfully resist the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit if he chooses to do so; that saving grace is not necessarily permanent, but that those who are loved of God, ransomed by Christ, and born again of the Holy Spirit, may (let God wish and strive ever so much to the contrary) throw away all and perish eternally.” (p. 31)

Relation of the Doctrine to Other Doctrines (chp. 23-28)

- Total Inability (or Total Depravity)... 1) What does this doctrine claim? 2) What was his strongest argument for it? 3) What is the strongest argument against it? 4) What’s a Bible verse that shapes your thinking on this?
- Unconditional Election... 1) What does this doctrine claim? 2) What was his strongest argument for it? 3) What is the strongest argument against it? 4) What’s a Bible verse that shapes your thinking on this?
- Limited Atonement... 1) What does this doctrine claim? 2) What was his strongest argument for it? 3) What is the strongest argument against it? 4) What’s a Bible verse that shapes your thinking on this?
- Efficacious Grace (or Irresistible Grace)... 1) What does this doctrine claim? 2) What was his strongest argument for it? 3) What is the strongest argument against it? 4) What’s a Bible verse that shapes your thinking on this?
- The Perseverance of the Saints... 1) What does this doctrine claim? 2) What was his strongest argument for it? 3) What is the strongest argument against it? 4) What’s a Bible verse that shapes your thinking on this?

“Doctrine of the Church” by Jonathan Leeman

Lecture 1.13: Conversion & Evangelism

Share any observations or questions.

Lecture 1.14: Discipling

Share any observations or questions.

Lecture 1.15: Catholicity—a Church and Churches

Share any observations or questions.

Sermon Outline Practice

Sermon on Philippians 2:5-8

Make observations on the passage below.

[5] Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, [6] who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, [7] but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

[8] And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Discuss a one-sentence summary of the meaning of this passage. This aims to establish unity in the sermon.

Discuss the fallen conditions to which the meaning of this passage could apply, and focus on one. This aims to establish purpose in the sermon.

Discuss a one-sentence summary of the sermon, applying the meaning of this passage to a fallen condition focus.

Discuss a helpful division of the sermon into main points for clarity and progression. This aims to establish clarity in the sermon.

Co-laboring in Prayer