

Understanding The Balance Between Man's Responsibility and His Moral Inability



ARMINIAN LOGIC

Man is RESPONSIBLE to seek and obey God...

So he must be ABLE to seek and obey God.

This teaching makes the work of salvation mostly dependent upon man's will to "choose his own destiny" and ultimately denies God's sovereign work in election and predestination. Proponents site the many verses which speak of man's responsibility to repent of sin, and to seek and obey God.

The end is an unbalanced view of man's ability.

HYPER-CALVINIST LOGIC

Man is NOT ABLE to seek and obey God...

So he must NOT BE RESPONSIBLE to seek and obey God.

This teaching denies man's responsibility and in doing so paints a fatalistic picture of the world wherein the actions of individuals "do not matter" because the end is "already determined". Proponents site the many verses which speak of man's fallen nature which results in his moral inability to seek God or obey His laws.

The end is an unbalanced view of man's responsibility.

BIBLICAL TRUTH

Man is RESPONSIBLE to seek and obey God...

Man is NOT ABLE to seek and obey God apart from His active giving of grace.

*And [Jesus] said, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me **unless** it is granted him by the Father." (John 6:65 ESV)*

Only Reformed Theology seeks to strike the proper balance between man's responsibility and his natural inability due to his fallen nature. The truth is that God has given all people the responsibility to repent, but apart from His grace they will not do so, because they are under the bondage of sin. Only this view is able to make sense of both the passages which speak of man's responsibility to seek and obey God as well as the passages that teach his moral inability to do just that.