

The Canons of Dort (1619)  
**Second Head of Doctrine**  
**(The Death of Christ, & the Redemption of Men Thereby)**  
**LORD'S DAY #23**

The true doctrine having been explained, the Synod rejects the errors of those:

**Paragraph 5**

**Leader:** Who teach: That all men have been accepted unto the state of reconciliation and unto the grace of the covenant, so that no one is worthy of condemnation on account of original sin, and that no one shall be condemned because of it, but that all are free from the guilt of original sin.

People: **For this opinion is repugnant to Scripture which teaches that we are *by nature children of wrath*.** (Eph. 2:3)

**Paragraph 6**

**Leader:** Who use the difference between meriting and appropriating, to the end that they may instill into the minds of the imprudent and inexperienced this teaching that God, as far as He is concerned, has been minded to apply to all equally the benefits gained by the death of Christ; but that, while some obtain the pardon of sin and eternal life, and others do not, this difference depends on their own free will, which joins itself to the grace that is offered without exception, and that it is not dependent on the special gift of mercy, which powerfully works in them, that they rather than others should appropriate unto themselves this grace.

People: **For these, while they feign that they present this distinction in a sound sense, seek to instill into the people the destructive poison of the Pelagian errors.**

**Paragraph 7**

**Leader:** Who teach: That Christ neither could die, nor needed to die, and also did not die, for those whom God loved in the highest degree and elected to eternal life, since these do not need the death of Christ.

People: **For they contradict the apostle, who declares: *Christ loved me, and gave himself up for me. Likewise: Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifies; who is he that condemns? It is Christ Jesus that died, namely, for them; and the Savior who says: I lay down my life for the sheep. And: This is my commandment, that ye love one another, even as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.*** (Gal. 2:20; Rom. 8:33-34; John 10:15; John 15:12-13).