



Sermon Notes—PM

What is Man?

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Ephesians 4:17–24; Canons of Dort 3.1

Studies in the Canons of Dort #21

Tonight we begin a study of the sinfulness of humanity and its effects on us spiritually as well as power of the Holy Spirit to regenerate us from this spiritual death to life. What is man? This is one of the great rhetorical questions of the Bible. The answer is found in our creation in the image of God and our degeneration into sin.

Our Creation in the Image of God

Our Degeneration into Sin

The Canons of the Synod of Dort: Some Facts

- What?* A “canon” (not cannon!) comes from a Greek word for “standard or rule.”
- When?* November 13, 1618–May 9, 1619
- Where?* Dordrecht (shortened, Dort), The Netherlands
- Who?* An international gathering (“synod”) of Reformed theologians, pastors, and elders from the Netherlands, Great Britain, Switzerland, and Germany (the French could not attend due to their Catholic king).
- Why?* To respond to the teaching of James Arminius’ followers on predestination, Christ’s redemption, the sinfulness of humanity, the work of the Holy Spirit in salvation, and the perseverance of the saints.
- How?* There are five “heads” or topics of doctrine that correspond to the original five points of the Remonstrants (so called because they made a *remonstrance*, or “protest”). Each “head” is divided into two parts: 1) the “articles” that state our doctrine, and 2) the “rejection of errors” that state our differences with the Arminian doctrine.

Outline of the Third & Fourth Head of Doctrine:

The Corruption of Man, His Conversion to God, and the Manner Thereof

- I. *Common Christian Convictions on Depravity (Articles 1–2)*
 1. Man was created good, but became wicked in mind, will, and affections (Article 1 cf. RE 2)
 2. Original sin from Adam (Article 2 cf. RE 1)
- II. *Reformed Doctrine of Depravity Defined (Article 3 cf. RE 3, 4)*
- III. *Common Christian Convictions on Regeneration (Articles 4–5)*
 1. Natural law cannot regenerate sinners (Article 4 cf. RE 5)
 2. The Law cannot regenerate sinners (Article 5)
- IV. *Reformed Doctrine of Regeneration Defined (Article 6)*
- V. *How God Works Regeneration (Articles 7–17)*
 1. Sovereignly to whom He will (Article 7)
 2. Through a sincere call to believe (Articles 8–9)
 3. As a gift to the elect (Article 10)
 4. Renewing the elect in mind, will and affections (Article 11 cf. RE 6)
 5. As a completely efficacious act of God alone (Article 12 cf. RE 7)
 6. Ineffably (Article 13)
 7. Actually creating faith (Article 14 cf. RE 9)
 8. Believers & unbelievers respond differently to regeneration (Article 15)
 9. God works faith in a personal way, not a mechanical way (Article 16 cf. RE 8)
 10. God works our response through the means of grace (Article 17)