

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Lesson Aim | To understand the biblical teaching of limited or definite atonement in contrast to Arminian position on the atonement. |
| Steps to Learning | Read the Canons of Dort, Head 2, articles 8-9 and John 10:1-30 . Also discuss the sermon and the particulars of the lesson below. It may be best to work through the material over several days or sessions. |
| Discuss | <p>What is a summary of the Reformed position on the application of the atonement and the Arminian position?</p> <p>We would argue that the Reformed position is the biblical position: Jesus Christ’s death was for the elect only. The Arminian position is that the death of Christ was for each and every person. The Reformed reply to the Arminian position is that if Christ died for every single person, then every single person would be saved but that is not the case.</p> <p>What are some of the biblical texts that the Arminians use to make their point and how do we respond?</p> <p>John 3:16 states: “God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” The Arminians argue that this means Jesus, the Son, died for each and every person in the world. But the text does not state that. It teaches the magnitude of God’s love for humanity. The death of Christ is sufficient for every person but only effective for those who believe, that is, the elect.</p> <p>2 Corinthians 5:14-15 states that one (Christ) has died for all, therefore all have died. “All” seems to imply each and every person, but “all” is restricted to those who have died. Those who have died are those who are united to Christ in his death. Otherwise, the verse read according to the Arminian view would mean that every single person in the world is saved, which is not true. 1 John 2:1-2 addresses “little children” and the propitiation (death of Christ) is not just for them but for the sins of the whole world. John is not arguing that Jesus’ death is for the little children (a term of endearment for children and adults) and for every single person in the world. Rather, he is saying that the atonement is for those whom he is addressing and many others within the world of man. That is, the atonement is for people from every tribe, tongue and nation.</p> <p>What are some biblical texts that prove limited atonement?</p> <p>1 Thess. 5:9,10; 1 Cor. 15:3; Gal. 2:20; Tit. 2:14; Rev. 5:9; John 6:38,39, 10:11,27,28; Matt. 1:21; Rom. 8:31-32.</p> |
| Bible Reading | 1 John 3 – Revelation 2 (Reading through the New Testament) |