

after the pattern of Jesus and His perfection rather than after Adam and his rebellion and fall.

(5) Grace may help the weak but it is not necessary nor is it universal.

(6) The Gospel works on the mind and its force is in the area of moral suasion. We are shown the better path and through the work of the Cross influenced to walk in it.

(7) All forms of grace may be withstood by human will...men are sinners by intent and need to reorient the intention.

In every practical aspect of thinking, Pelagianism is a form of self-salvation. It is interesting to see how many Christian things Pelagius apparently believed (in terms of doctrine and creed) but how wretchedly he applied these to the needs and state of man. Living sinlessly was possible in the system by simply exercising oneself to make oneself pleasing to God. If one wanted to make use of the small helps God gave on the way (the Gospel, etc.) one might but it would be better for one to simply exercise his will in that direction. The Pelagian system gives man the powers of God and gives God the weaknesses of men.

b. The Augustinian response

We do not suggest that Augustine formulated his views simply to answer Pelagianism or that he does only this. But his concepts in anthropology at this point are suggestive of the way in which the orthodox community saw the matter at this time. He postulated the following generally summarized ideas:

(1) Man is bound in his will to his depraved nature..he is lost and in sin..he is unable to do spiritual good.

(2) Salvation is obtainable only by grace...God being the sole supply and supplier of this.

(3) Grace is both objective and subjective: the former is what you believe and do while the latter is the working of the Spirit within. The one you practice openly and the other you feel within.

(4) Grace is irresistible and a gift that transcends the human spirit. It is not, in primary form, visible and so not at our command.

(5) Faith is the source of all good works and a necessary corollary to grace.

(6) Justification is by faith and involves repentance, forgiveness and the transformation of the believer.