

## **A Study Of Augustinian Theology And Its Influence Upon The History Of Christianity**

### **I. The Debate Between Augustine And Pelagius**

- Augustine
- Every person is connected to Adam's sin in that everyone was there.
- Pelagius
- Each soul came into existence at the time of a person's birth.
- Augustine
- Because we all participated in the original sin, we all bear a co responsibility for the sin of Adam.
- Pelagius
- Sin is not something passed down from Adam, sin is an act done by each individual.
- Augustine
- We all inherit from Adam a will that has already fallen, a will that chooses evil continually. Because of Sin the will is unable to choose good.
- Pelagius
- Man is basically good and is always able to choose good.
- Augustine
- Because man is unable to choose good, God's grace is a work from outside, a work that operates upon the will and causes it to turn to God in faith.
- Pelagius
- Grace are the helps God has provided people to reach their human potential, reason, free will, the law of God, the teachings and examples of Christ.
- (*What Christians Believe*, Alan Johnson & Robert Webber, pp. 215-218)

**"The Council of Carthage (418) decided for Augustine's view on grace and sin, and condemned Pelagianism in uncompromising terms."  
(*Christian Theology*, Alister E. McGrath, p.23, 1993)**

### **II. Augustine And The Doctrine Of The Sacraments**

**"No one can be saved without sanctifying grace, and the Catholic Church alone is the divinely established means by which grace is brought to the world and the full fruits of Our Lord's Redemption are applied to men."  
(*New Baltimore Catechism*, Rev. Francis Connell, p.93)**

**"The principal way of obtaining grace are prayer and the sacraments, especially the Holy Eucharist."  
(*New Baltimore Catechism*, Rev. Francis Connell, p. 64)**

**"There are seven sacraments: Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist, Penance, Extreme Unction, Holy Orders, and Matrimony."  
(*New Baltimore Catechism*, Rev. Francis Connell, p. 178)**

**"God uses the seven sacraments as instruments to produce grace in our souls. Christ willed that the sacraments be administered by men who act in His name."  
(ibid. p.179)**

**Romans 5:1-2 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.**

### **III. Augustine And The Doctrine Of Original Sin And Infant Baptism**

**"The sin which we inherit from our first parents is called original sin. This sin is called original because it comes down to us from our first parents, and we are brought into the world with its guilt on our soul."**

***(Advanced Catechism, Rev. Thomas J. O'Brien, p.25)***

**Ezekiel 18:20 the soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.**

**Baptism takes away original sin; and also actual sins and all the punishment due to them; *(New Baltimore Catechism and Mass, p.186)***

**"When in the fourth and fifth centuries the doctrine of original sin and consequently of the necessity of baptism for all became better known, the practice of infant baptism progressed rapidly." *(Legislation on the New Code of Canon Law, p. 72)***

**"There is no express mention of the baptizing of infants in the New Testament"  
*(Question Box, p.243)***

**Acts 8:36-37 Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?" 37 Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."**

### **IV. Original Sin and The Immaculate Conception Of Mary**

**"the doctrine which holds that the most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instance of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by Almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin" *(Encyclical Ineffabilis Deus of Pope Pius IX)***