

## SESSION 5: The Neo-Pelagian Captivity of the Church (Part 1): Historical Roots

Song Selection: TPH Psalm #119N *Your Word Sheds Light*

Scripture: Gen 3:6-7; Gal 3:10-14

Q: what is Pelagianism and where did it begin?

- Gen 3:6-7 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And *they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.*
- Gal 3:10-14 For *all who rely on works of the law are under a curse*; for it is written, “Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.” Now it is evident that *no one is justified before God by the law*, for “The righteous shall live by faith.” But the law is not of faith, rather “The one who does them shall live by them.” Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”—so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.
- WCF 7.2, 7.3, 19.1, 19.2, 19.6
- 7.2 The first covenant made with man was a *covenant of works*, wherein life was promised to Adam, and in him to his posterity, upon condition of perfect and personal obedience.
- 7.3 Man by his fall *having made himself incapable of life by that covenant*, the Lord was pleased to make a second, commonly called the *covenant of grace*: wherein he freely offered unto sinners life and salvation by Jesus Christ, requiring of them faith in him that they may be saved, and promising to give unto all those that are ordained unto life his Holy Spirit, to make them willing and able to believe.
- 19.1 God gave to Adam a law, as a *covenant of works*, by which he bound him and all his posterity to personal, entire, exact, and perpetual obedience; promised life upon the fulfilling, and threatened death upon the breach of it; and *endued him with power and ability to keep it.*
- 19.2 *This law, after his fall, continued to be a perfect rule of righteousness*; and, as such, was delivered by God upon mount Sinai in ten commandments, and written in two tables; the first four commandments containing our duty towards God, and the other six our duty to man.
- 19.6 *Although true believers be not under the law as a covenant of works, to be thereby justified or condemned. . . .*

1. What would Luther say?
2. Two covenants, not three
3. From Adam to Andy Stanley
  - a. The Garden of Eden
  - b. Abraham, Isaac, and Ishmael (and Paul)
  - c. Jesus and the Pharisees
  - d. The Jerusalem Council
  - e. Augustine and Pelagius
  - f. Luther and Erasmus
  - g. Calvin and Arminius
  - h. Charles Finney
  - i. Machen and Fosdick
  - j. Andy Stanley and Al Mohler