

What is Amyraldism?

Amyraldism derives chiefly from a French theologian called Moise Amyraut (1596-1664). In those days scholars took Latin names (as they wrote in Latin which was the universal language) so Amyraut becomes Amyrald. Amyraut sought to unify Calvinists and Lutherans and developed a compromise between Calvinistic particularism (the elect singled out) and Lutheran universalism (which is similar to Arminian universalism).

This was based upon a universalistic Gospel (God loves everyone and desires to save everyone) tacked on to the particularism of Calvinism (God elects only some to eternal life in practice).

The essence of Amyraldism is:

- *Universalism*: salvation is hypothetically offered to all and available for all on the condition that they believe. Thus, God wills all men to be saved. But people are not saved as a result of their sin and rejection of the Gospel. The universalism does not result in the salvation of men and is thus merely hypothetical.
- *Particularism*: salvation is certain for the specific people chosen by God since men do not believe the offer.

Thus God loves everyone and decrees the salvation of everyone if they believe. However, since men don't believe God gives faith to the elect. This is a confused and contradictory system - all men can be saved by their own faith, but only the elect are actually saved by the gift of God's faith.

The doctrine was developed to avoid the impression that God is unfair, hateful or unjust in the doctrine of election; but it completely ignores many clear scriptures, such as that God does hate the wicked, or that the reprobate are chosen to condemnation from eternity.

Historically, Amyraldian pretexts have been the way that Arminianism and Calvinism have been welded together by some erroneous Reformed teachers, such as Richard Baxter, John Davenant and Andrew Fuller; as well as modern 4-Point Calvinists. It has been called 'Hypothetical Universalism' because it is a theological impossibility: it tries to unite two opposite and contradictory things.

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