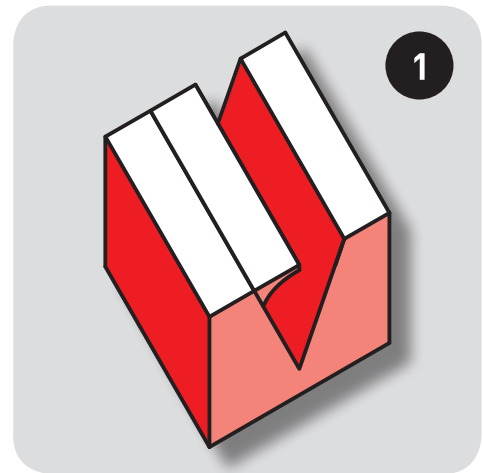


THE EXTENT OF THE ATONEMENT: THREE VIEWS

By Mark Barry © 2010 AFES www.afes.org.au Please do not republish without permission, but feel free to copy for personal use.

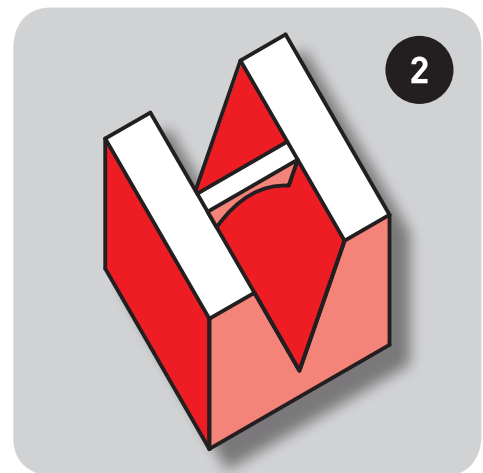
UNLIMITED ATONEMENT (Arminianism)

- **View:** Jesus died for the sins of the entire human race. Jesus' atonement is therefore sufficient for all people, but effective only for those who choose to believe, i.e. faith is the means of making Jesus' universal atonement effective for the individual.
- **Scripture:** John 1:29; 3:16-17; Romans 5:18; 2 Corinthians 5:14-15; 1 Timothy 2:3-6; Titus 2:11; Hebrews 2:9; 2 Peter 3:9; 1 John 2:2; 4:14.
- **Illustration:** Jesus' atonement is like an infinitely wide bridge that spans part way over the chasm between God and humanity. Everyone has the ability to cross over, but only those who actually choose to take the leap of faith will be saved.



LIMITED ATONEMENT (Hyper-Calvinism)

- **View:** Jesus died only for the sins of God's elect, not for the whole of humanity. Therefore Christ's atonement only achieves something for those chosen by God, i.e. those who have been given the gift of faith by the Spirit.
- **Scripture:** Matthew 1:21; 20:28; 26:28; John 10:11, 15, 26-27; Acts 20:28; Romans 8:32-35; Ephesians 5:25.
- **Illustration:** Jesus' atonement is like a narrow bridge that fully spans the chasm between God and humanity. Access is restricted only to God's elect who are carried across the bridge by God's Spirit.



LIMITED ATONEMENT (Calvinism)

- **View:** Jesus died for all people, but he died *especially* for the elect. There is a difference between the objective achievement of Jesus' atonement for all humanity and the subjective achievement for God's people. Jesus' atonement is indeed sufficient for all people, yet is ultimately effective in saving only those chosen by God.
- **Scripture:** Both sets of verses cited above, combined together for example in 1 Timothy 4:10 & 2 Peter 2:1.
- **Illustration:** Jesus' atonement is like an infinitely wide bridge - wide enough for all humanity to cross - fully spanning the chasm between God and humanity. Yet access to the bridge is effectively fenced off, limited to God's elect.

