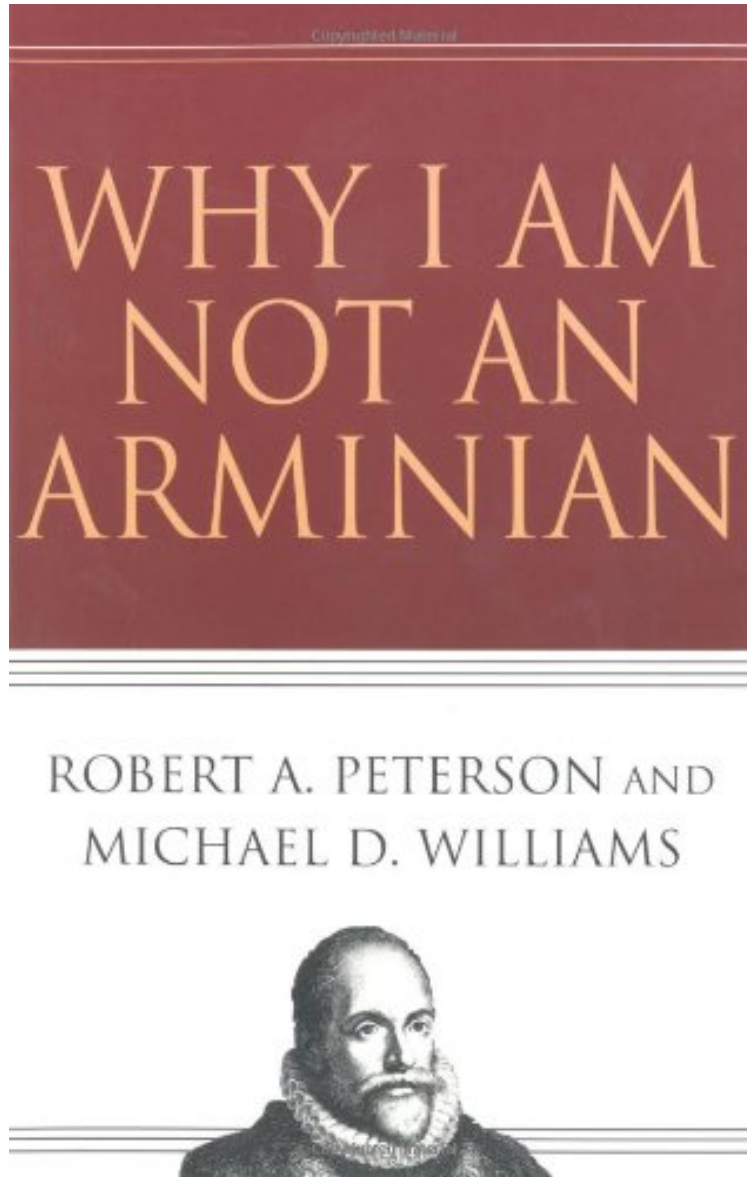


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Why I Am Not an Arminian

Robert A. Peterson, Michael D. Williams
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Robert A. Peterson, Michael D. Williams : Why I Am Not an Arminian before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Why I Am Not an Arminian:

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Solid Historical, Biblical, and Systematic ApproachBy Gregory A. BaughmanA tough book to review fairly in relation to its argument as I came from an Arminian understanding of salvation to a Calvinistic one by way of similar arguments (to praise it too highly would merely be patting myself on

the back!). So aside from its scriptural arguments (which, I'll admit, I do think are convincing), I appreciated this book for a few reasons. 1) It's eminently fair to their opponents. The authors identified the best thinkers on the other side and consistently engage them (to the point of mentioning when a certain author does not address a specific verse). 2) It strikes a nice balance between historical, systematic, and biblical theology. 3) They admit to weaknesses in their arguments and the existence of mystery in theology. As good Calvinists (and not Reformed Scholastics), their inclination is to affirm no more than Scripture does. I was surprised some editorial errors (i.e. Hebrew x:x instead of Hebrews x:x) in a few places. This is a solid introduction to the discussion. Now, on to its companion volume

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
By William Bryant
Not as persuasive as its companion Why I Am Not a Calvinist.
0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good companion book for Why I Am Not a Calvinist ...
By Elbert McAlister
Good companion book for Why I Am Not a Calvinist and Chosen But Free for a fairly quick, but quite comprehensive, study of the differences in viewpoints commonly held by many Christians. Many scripture references.

What's wrong with Arminianism? Arminian theology is sweeping through the evangelical churches of North America. While most Arminians are good, sincere, orthodox Christians, authors Robert A. Peterson and Michael D. Williams contend that aspects of Arminian thought are troubling both biblically and theologically. In particular, they argue, Arminians have too lofty a view of human nature and an inadequate understanding of God's sovereign love in Christ. Why I Am Not an Arminian explores the biblical, theological and historical background to the Calvinist-Arminian debate. The irenic nature and keen insight of this book will be appreciated by laypeople, pastors and scholars alike.

"A highly nuanced, theologically erudite work which presents Arminianism in the best possible light and then shifts the focus onto a positive construction of Calvinism to counter Arminian claims." (Myk Habets, Pacific Journal of Baptist Research)"Very beneficial to those learning about Calvinism or Calvinists who are looking to reinforce their particular perspective. . . Very useful as a supplemental text for one studying theology. Pastors who have an interest in theology will appreciate the brevity of the book." (Larry Sterling, Jr., Ashland Theological Journal, 2008)"Peterson and Williams write with a grace which goes far deeper than their commendable style. The authors' Arminian conversants are fairly represented from their best literature and answered with impeccable arguments which are scripturally compelling, philosophically and historically exacting, and gracefully irenic. Why I Am Not an Arminian is a book that you can get your head and your heart around--and be graced!" (R. Kent Hughes, Pastor, College Church in Wheaton, Wheaton, Illinois)"Peterson and Williams have addressed the historic debate between Calvinism and Arminianism with an irenic spirit and a zeal for truth. This is Christian scholarship at its best, characterized by biblical rigor, philosophical acumen, charitable expression and a willingness to engage opponents only after giving them a fair hearing in their own words. Not only are opponents treated fairly, so are the Scriptures. Peterson and Williams refuse to push the Bible into a box of easy answers and formula defenses. There are aspects of God's sovereignty that will remain mystery until we are face to face with him. Peterson and Williams do not shy from the mystery but embrace it as an expression of the greatness of the God who makes us his own." (Bryan Chapell, President and Professor of Practical Theology, Covenant Theological Seminary)"A quick glance at this volume's title might give someone the impression that the book is a harsh, polemical attack on Arminianism. Nothing could be further from the truth. Though clearly written from a Reformed evangelical perspective, Why I Am Not an Arminian is an evenhanded and careful critique of the Arminian approach to sin and salvation. To their credit, Robert Peterson and Mike Williams refuse to stack the theological deck in their favor by fairly evaluating only first-rate cases for Arminianism. After thoroughly addressing the historical context, theological concerns and biblical issues in a readable manner, Peterson and Williams show that even the best Arminian positions come up short. Why I Am Not an Arminian is a solid, valuable and biblically centered contribution to this never-ending discussion." (Chris Morgan, Associate Professor of Theology, California Baptist University)"Those who have been unclear about the issues separating Calvinists and Arminians will find here a carefully reasoned, understandable exposition of Calvinist theology. The authors treat their dialogue partners fairly, even compassionately, asking hard questions while avoiding triumphalism or caricature. Why I Am Not an Arminian will be a genuine help to anyone wanting to better understand the nature and application of salvation in Christ." (Robert A. Pyne, Th.D., Professor of Systematic Theology, Dallas Theological Seminary)"Peterson and Williams do not fall prey to a rant against Arminianism. Their work displays an irenicism and charity that serves as a model for other authors. Even Calvinists may disagree with some of their arguments, but at the end of the day Peterson and Williams demonstrate that Calvinism is biblically grounded and Arminianism is not. This book is ideal for those who wonder what the debate between Calvinists and Arminians is all about." (Thomas R. Schreiner, Professor of New Testament, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary)"I can hardly say enough in praise of this book. It is not flashy, but it is attractive. It models both clarity and charity. It does not fixate on pet Bible verses but covers seminal discussions in church history. At the same time it is Bible-centered in its presentation; it does not simply rehearse partisan opinions. In a new millennium, the church is looking for new direction. I believe Peterson and Williams offer it with this corrective but positive exposition of the faith. They promote church unity, aid clear thinking and set forth

divine teaching in constructive dialogue with human preference. Arminians, Calvinists and everyone in between are in the authors' debt." (Robert Yarbrough, Associate Professor of New Testament and New Testament Department Chair, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School)

About the Author Robert A. Peterson (Ph.D., Drew University) is professor of systematic theology at Covenant Theological Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri. He was formerly professor of New Testament and theology at Biblical Theological Seminary in Hatfield, Pennsylvania. His books include *Getting to Know John's Gospel: A Fresh Look at Its Main Ideas*, *Hell on Trial: The Case for Eternal Punishment*, *Calvin's Doctrine of the Atonement*, *Adopted by God: From Wayward Sinners to Cherished Children* (all Presbyterian Reformed) and *Hell Under Fire* (coedited with Chris Morgan, Zondervan). He has written numerous articles, was a contributor to the second edition of the *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology* (Baker) and edits Covenant Seminary's journal, *Presbyterion*.

Williams is professor of systematic theology at Covenant Theological Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri.