

Reformation Fellowship Discussion Outline:
Critique of the Ordinary Christian's Creed
Handout #9

Points #12-16 of "The Ordinary Christian's Creed" > My Critique

A. Critique of specific assertions within these points:

1. **Point #12** from "The Ordinary Christian's Creed" (Handout #1):
 - a. "...it was now impossible for God to grant any human being Life rather than condemnation to Hell without violating the justice that he himself had built into the fabric of his created cosmos..."
 - i. *Traditional concept of Hell is not a biblical concept.*
 - ii. *Impossible to grant Life...without violating justice that he himself had built into the fabric of his created cosmos.*

(A) It is not a matter of God's justice being built into the fabric of creation as if God was answerable to it.
 - iii. *Mercy triumphs over judgment; mercy grants Life in the face of the demands of justice.*
 - b. "...a justice that was also inherent within the very being and character of God himself. Mankind justly deserved condemnation. For God to grant anything other than that would be unjust."
 - i. *Mercy is unjust, but it is not unrighteous.*
 - ii. *It is false to argue that mercy cannot be extended unless and until justice is satisfied.*

(A) Such "mercy" would not be mercy.
 - c. This restriction on God's dealings with his human creatures existed only because of the autonomous choice of Adam and Eve.
 - i. *NO; mankind was damnable from the outset.*
 - ii. *Adam and Eve did not create the need for salvation by their transgression; Adam and Eve were created in need of salvation.*
2. **Point #13** from "The Ordinary Christian's Creed" (Handout #1):
 - a. "This divine dilemma was a major obstacle to God's will for his human creatures."
 - i. *Not really! God was not faced with a dilemma. He merely needed to choose to exercise mercy.*
 - b. The fact that he could not grant such mercy to any human being without violating his own inherent justice was an obstacle to his merciful desire to save mankind.

