

# The “Minor” Controversies: Donatism and Pelagianism

## Outline

- I. Introduction
- II. The reign of Theodosius: From tolerated to established church
  - A. Parallels in Presbyterianism
  - B. Effects of establishment
- III. Augustine
  - A. Conversion
  - B. Impact
- IV. Donatism
  - A. Historical backdrop
  - B. Beliefs
    1. A church for saints not sinners
    2. No readmission for lapsed churchmen
    3. Power of sacraments lies in worthiness of the officiant
  - C. Arguments over nature of the church
    1. Donatist view
    2. Visible and invisible church
  - D. Arguments over readmission
  - E. Arguments over validity of sacraments
    1. *Ex opere operantis* - power of baptism in the one performing it
    2. *Ex opere operato* - power of baptism in the work being done
    3. *Reformed view* - baptism a sign and seal of covenant of grace
- V. Pelagianism
  - A. Historical backdrop
  - B. Disputation over Augustine’s prayer
  - C. Pelagius’s views
    1. Grace
    2. Christ’s sacrifice
    3. Freedom of the will
  - D. Historical resolution
  - E. Semi-pelagianism
    1. Council of Trent
    2. Articles of Remonstrance