



Preliminary Considerations

1. It is appropriate to examine and evaluate the doctrines of other denominations (1 Thess. 5:21)
2. Our aim in any such evaluation is love for God's truth and for love God's people (1 Tim. 1:3-7)
3. We should apply this information by warning or comforting people as needed (1 Thess. 5:14)

	Reformed	Evangelical	Arminian	Lutheran	Roman
The doctrine	Perseverance of the Saints	Once Saved, Always Saved (Eternal Security)	[Conditional] Perseverance of Some Saints	Perseverance of Some Saints	Remaining in a State of Grace until Death
Can a true Christian end up in Hell?	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Who is a true Christian?	Those who are regenerated	Those who decide to receive Jesus as Savior	Those who repent and believe the gospel	Those who are baptized	Those who are baptized
Summary	God preserves his people as they persevere in faith	Those who receive Jesus can fall away, but still go to heaven in the end	Believers are preserved from external threats, but can repudiate their faith	God intends to preserve believers, but they can willingly forfeit salvation	Ordinary believers should not presume final perseverance
Message to believers	God always completes what he begins	God's eternal salvation is entirely bestowed in a momentary transaction	God would like to finish what he starts, but this involves your cooperation	God gives you everything you need, so don't neglect what he offers	God gives you everything you need, but lets you work it out
Message to the backslidden	You were never truly converted	Jesus is still your Savior, but you should now accept him as Lord	You must be converted again (i.e., a second time)	Remember your baptism (i.e., regeneration) and re-avail yourselves of God's grace	Try to do better and things might work out better in the end