

# The Sovereignty of God

*"...For it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure." Philipians 2:13*

## 1. The Sovereignty of God and Human will

### 1. The Nature of the Human Will. What is free will?

1. The discussion over free will centers on Salvation. Who is in control of our destiny?
2. Dictionary.com: Free and independent choice, voluntary decision. (not determined by physical or divine forces)
3. Noah Webster's 1828 Dictionary: The faculty which is exercised in deciding, among two or more objects, which we shall embrace or pursue. The will is directed or influenced by the judgment.
4. The will is the ability to choose
  1. What affects our choices?
    1. Our nature
    2. Our mind
    3. Our heart
  2. The will is not sovereign. Something else causes it to choose.
  3. Example: *"So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate."* **Genesis 3:6**
  4. The strongest motive that is brought to bear on a decision determines the choice.
5. What causes the will to make a choice
  1. Reason, conscience, emotions (desire)
  2. The "whisper" of the tempter
  3. The Holy Spirit
  4. The will is a servant of the mind. Determined by world, flesh, devil and God.
6. Human philosophy says that the will governs the man, but the word of God says the heart (soul) dominates man.
  1. *"Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life."* **Proverbs 4:23**
  2. *"For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."* **Mark 7:21-23**

## 2. The bondage of the human will

1. Three examples
  1. Unfallen Adam
    1. Adam's will was free, in perfect balance – He could choose good or evil

2. Adam created in state of innocence not holiness
3. No constraining bias toward in him
2. The Lord Jesus Christ
  1. The Holy one of God. *"What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God."* **Mark 1:24**
  2. The Son of God. *"And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.""* **Luke 1:35**
  3. He was unable to sin. His will was biased toward good
  4. Sinless humanity paired with eternal Deity
3. The sinner
  1. The sinner's will is not free because of state of his heart. He was born into sin. *"Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me."* **Psalm 51:5**
  2. He is free in one direction - free to sin
  3. His bias is toward evil, his heart is ever inclined toward sin
  4. He is in Bondage to and in service of an enslaved and depraved heart
    1. *"For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."* **Romans 6:20-23**
  5. The sinner is free to do as he pleases, except as he is restrained by God!
  6. In himself the natural man has the power to reject God, but not to choose Christ. Because he is at enmity with God. *"For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God."* **Romans 8:7-8**
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### 3. The condition of the Human will

1. Man's condition – Total depravity
  1. Every faculty (body, mind, spirit and yes will) is corrupted
    1. Our spirit – bondage to sin. *"For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another."* **Titus 3:3**
    2. Our mind – carnally minded. *"For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot."* **Romans 8:7**
    3. Our heart - *"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?"* **Jeremiah 17:9**
  2. Captive of the devil. *"And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the*

*power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience."*

**Ephesians 2:1-2**

3. Sin is more than actions, it is a condition (our nature) **Romans 3:10-18**
4. Man's free will is only free in terms of choosing according to his nature
2. But God
  1. Only divine action can change a man's heart. *"No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day."* **John 6:44**
  2. Three things need for Salvation
    1. God purposed it
    2. Christ purchased it
    3. The Holy Spirit applies it
  3. "Christ came here not to help those who were willing to help themselves, but to do for His people what they were incapable of doing for themselves." A.W. Pink *"To open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness."* **Isaiah 42:7**
  4. *"But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God."* **John 1:12-13**