

Absolute Power

Omnipotence

- Latin: *omni* = all; *potens* = power.
- Sovereign will
 - God has the freedom of will to decide whatever he wants
 - Power to choose or decide
- Absolute Power
 - Omnipotence in the technical sense
 - Power to execute his will
 - How much and which power God has
 - Power to do

Definitions

- Grudem: "God's will is that attribute of God whereby he approves and determines to bring about every action necessary for the existence and activity of himself and all creation."
- Frame: "God's will is anything he wants to happen."
- Several crucial components:
 - God's will is free
 - God's will is immutable
 - God's will is efficacious

General Expressions

- Rev. 4:11 – "Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created."
- Ps. 135:6 — Whatever the LORD pleases, He does, in heaven and in earth, in the seas and in all deeps.
- Eph. 1:11

Distinctions in the Divine Will

- Decretive = what God has determined will happen
- Preceptive = what we are obligated to do
- Deut. 29:29 – The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law.

Preceptive Will (will of precept)

- Revealed will of God
 - 1) Those rules of life laid down in Scripture; hence "precept"
 - 2) Outcomes God sees as desirable but does not choose to bring about
- Does not always come to pass
- Can be known

Biblical examples

- Ezek. 18:23 – "Do I have any pleasure in the death of the wicked," declares the Lord GOD, "rather than that he should turn from his ways and live?; reason that those who embrace God's sovereignty in salvation still do and should plead with sinners to be reconciled to God.
- Matt. 7:21 – "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter*.
- John 7:17 – "If anyone is willing to do His will, he will know of the teaching, whether it is of God or *whether* I speak from Myself.
- Rom. 12:2 -- do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Biblical Examples

- Eph. 5:17 -- do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.
- 1 Thess. 4:3-- this is the will of God, your sanctification; *that is*, that you abstain from sexual immorality;
- 1 Thess. 5:18 — in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Decretive Will (will of decree)

- Will of God through which he determines whatever comes to pass
- The exercise of God's will to determine whatever happens is often called the Eternal Decree (which we will examine in more detail in the future).