

God's Sovereignty & Man's Responsibility 2022-06-19

Romans 9:19-20

You will say to me then, "Why does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?" But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, "Why have you made me like this?"

God's sovereignty does not reduce men to helpless puppets/robots without thought/choice.

- God is so great can allow willing/significant choices and still be in complete control.
 - God is sovereign over all things yet men are responsible for their choices/actions.

Choosing some means passing over others, but God does NOT make anyone sinner nor is this considered double predestination. Grudem quote

- God did not create sinful beings in order to punish them but permits men to exercise own free will to sin then punishes for their "willing" sins.

God made us in such way that (1) he ordains all we do, (2) yet we exercise personal will and make voluntary choices that we're responsible for. Romans 9:19-20, 3:23, James 1:13, 1 John 1:5

- Exactly how God causes us to choose something willingly is unknown.
 - But aware of no restraints on our will from God when we make decisions.
 - absolutely no sense of being forced/compelled to choose one over another.
- But to say God does not cause us to make willing choices limits His power.
 - God can create creature who make willing, voluntary, meaningful choices, and those choices are nonetheless ordained by God.
 - If choices not caused by God but totally free. How can God predict future?
 - foreknown is fixed and not "free" in sense of undetermined/uncaused.
 - If both person and circumstances created by God then ultimately outcome determined by God...freedom in a Calvinist sense.
 - Does Scripture say a choice ordained by God is not a real choice?

God ordains all we do, yet we exercise our will and make voluntary choices/actions that have real results/effects. James 4:2b-3, Romans 10:14-15a, James 1:25, Psalm 128:1,

- God ordained prayer as way uses to bring results/changes in world.
 - Prayer is asking God to incomprehensibly influence men's wills.
 - God's answers genuine....response planned long ago still real response.
- God works through actions/lack of action in his providential management of world.
 - Proclaiming gospel results in people being saved.
 - obedience to God results in blessings in life,
 - disobedience results in lack of God's blessings.

impossible for finite beings to totally understand an infinite God and how/whyHe works.

- Creator God has the right to do as chooses with the men He created. Romans 9:14-15, 21-23

- God's grace is God's choice. Mercy not human right/divine obligation.
 - make clay either dishonor/honor to further His purposes/glory.

God's purpose in election: His glory displayed through His mercy.... He able keep us.

- Power in judgment makes known riches of His glory to “vessels of mercy”.

Calvin (sovereign) & Armenian (free will) both believe make voluntary, willing choice/actions have real results that we're responsible for.....God sovereign. yet men responsible for choices/actions.

- Exactly how God cause us to choose something willingly unknown.
 - Know God is and does only good.....doesn't make anyone sin.

God's decision not so save some is called reprobation because double predestination implies God carries out both election and damnation in the same way, which is not true. In predestining to glory, God works directly on hearts through the Holy Spirit to impart new life, saving faith, and the blessings of salvation. But in reprobation, God does not work on the heart to infuse evil or force people to sin. He works through secondary causes to permit sin, so sinners are justly condemned for their willful sins.

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