

Free Will?

A Study to Understand God's Sovereignty and Man's Free Will

Lesson 1: Predestination vs. Free Will



- * In discussing _____ vs. _____, many people so strongly prefer one side that they virtually reject the possibility of the other's having even a hint of truth.
- * Those who strongly emphasize the _____ of God in predestining who will be saved sometimes take a position that resembles _____. Fatalism is the belief that "what will be will be."
- * Those who emphasize the free will of humanity come close to denying the _____ of God. Free will is the freedom of choice or self-determination that human beings possess. Does the Bible teach such?
- * Passages such as (Rom. 8:29–30, Eph. 1:5–11) explicitly teach that God predestines some to salvation by grace. The word translated "predestine" means "_____."
- * There is no escaping the fact that God _____ who will be saved. On what basis God predestines who will be saved can be debated, but predestination itself is absolutely a biblical teaching.
- * Numerous other New Testament passages also refer to believers' being _____ or _____ to salvation (Matt. 24:22, 31; Mark 13:20, 27; Rom. 8:33; 9:11; 11:5–7, 28; Eph. 1:11; Col. 3:12; 1 Thess. 1:4; 1 Tim. 5:21; 2 Tim. 2:10; Titus 1:1; 1 Peter 1:1–2; 2:9; 2 Peter 1:10).
- * A totally "_____" will would be the capacity to make choices without any external constraints or coercion. There is _____ in the Bible that teaches human beings have this type of free will—only God is perfectly free from all constraint.
- * One difficulty in the discussion of predestination vs. free will is the common understanding of free will being the _____ freedom to do anything we choose.
- * The Bible teaches that without _____ we are "dead in our trespasses and sins" (Eph. 2:1). If we are spiritually dead, surely that impacts our _____-making. (John 6:44) says that, unless God draws, no one can come to Christ for salvation. If the decision whether to trust in Christ is _____ without God's "interference," our will is not totally "free."
- * We have a free will in the sense that we are capable of making _____ choices. Our decision-making is impacted by numerous factors, though: e.g., our sin nature, our upbringing, our intellect, our training/education, our biology, our psychology, etc.

- * Human beings _____ truly have a free will, as popularly defined and preached in some pulpits. Biblically speaking, we have the responsibility to respond to what God has revealed to us, (John 1:12; 3:16; Acts 16:31; Rom. 10:9–10; Rev. 22:17). But, again, our will is not truly “free” because we have constraints that shape our decisions.
- * Predestination is clearly and directly a _____ doctrine and taught throughout the Bible. Free will is not clearly and directly taught in _____.
- * God is sovereign over everything, including who is saved. Concurrently, we are genuinely _____ for our decisions related to salvation.
- * In the Bible, God repeatedly calls on us to exercise our will and _____ in Christ for salvation, and we should pursue obedience to those commands regardless of how well we do or don’t understand predestination.