

God's Will in Our Choices

Objectives:

- 1. Discuss how to make good choices according to God's will using biblical principles and our will**
- 2. To find out what is this free will God has given us**
- 3. How to apply the doctrine of free will to our lives**

Purpose: Is that we stay on the wall and finish the assignment God has called us to.

God's grace isn't involved in anything against His will.

Proverbs 3:13-16 - Blessed is the man who finds wisdom. the one who gains understanding. For wisdom is more profitable than silver, and her wages are better than gold. Wisdom is more precious than rubies. Nothing you desire can compare with her. She offers you long life in her right hand and riches and honor in her left.

Biblical principles are nuggets of wisdom.

Biblical financial principle Example: Spend less than you earn, save what you don't spend, and invest what you save.

Principles are fundamental truths that explain how something works.

If you know how something works, then you can fix it when there's a problem.

If you take biblical principles and you put them to work in your life, they're going to pay off

Making wise choices based on biblical principles leads to success, staying on the wall and finishing the work.

Are the choices you make based on biblical principles or do they violate biblical principles?

Proverbs 19:3 - People ruin their lives by their own foolishness and then they're angry at the Lord.

Proverbs 2:11 - Wise choices will watch over you. Understanding will keep you safe.

The doctrine of free will

Genesis 1:26 - And God said, 'Let us make man in our image after our likeness.' And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the fowl of the air and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

There is a distinct difference between man and animals because man is made in the image of God.

Man is not an animal. Man is a personal, rational, and sovereign being.

Personal - man has emotions, morals, and values

Rational - man has the ability to reason

Sovereign - man has the ability to make choices and decisions independent of others

Joshua 24:15 - And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, then you choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your father served that were on the other side of the flood or the gods of the Amorites on whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

Because man possesses these three characteristics man possesses a free will.

Free will - man is responsible for his own actions because he has the freedom and ability to make choices and decisions.

Jude verse 10 - But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves.

Naturally (Greek word physikos) - instinctively.

Brute (Greek word alogos) - destitute of reason or unable to reason.

Beast (Greek word zoan) - it refers to any live creature.

Animals are instinctive creatures that are unable to reason. Animals don't have a free will.

Theory of Determinism: You're not responsible for the way you respond to situations or circumstances because your personality and your character are predetermined.

3 theories of determinism:

1. Genetic determinism - This theory blames all of your faults and your shortcomings on your genetics. They're responsible for the way you act and not you because it's genetic.
2. Psychic Determinism - This theory blames it all on your parents. Your upbringing and the way that you were raised determined your personality and your character.
3. Environmental determinism - This theory blames it on your environment. Someone or something in your environment is responsible for the way you are and for the way you act.

God holds you responsible for your actions regardless of your genetic tendency or what your parents did to you.

2 Corinthians 5:10 - For we must all stand before Christ to be judged. We will each receive whatever we deserve, for the good or evil we have done in this earthly body.

Responsible (It's a compound word made up of two words):

1. Response
2. Able

Responsible means that you're able to choose the right response.

Ezekiel 18:2-4 - Why do you quote this proverb concerning the land of Israel? The parents have eaten sour grapes, but their children's mouths pucker at the taste. As surely as I live, says the sovereign Lord, you will not quote this proverb anymore in Israel. For all people are mine to judge, both parents and children alike. And this is my rule. The person who sins is the one who will die.

Biblical Principle: Every person is accountable for their own actions.

Verses 5-13 - Suppose a certain man is righteous and he does what is just and right. He does not feed in the mountains before Israel's idols or worship them. He does not commit adultery or have intercourse with the woman during her menstrual period. He is a merciful creditor, not keeping the items given as security by poor debtors. He does not rob the poor, but instead gives food to the hungry and provides clothes for the needy. He grants loans without interest, stays away from injustice, is honest and fair when judging others, and faithfully obeys my decrees and regulations. Anyone who does those things is just and will surely live, says the Sovereign Lord. But suppose that man has a son who grows up to be a robber or murderer. And he refuses to do what is right. And that son does all the evil things that his father would never do. He worships idols on the mountains, commits adultery, oppresses the poor and helpless, steals from debtors by refusing to let them redeem their security, worships idols, commits detestable sins, and lends money at excessive interest. Should such a sinful person live? No! He must die and must take full blame.

Verses 14-20 - But suppose that sinful son in turn has a son who sees his father's wickedness and he decides against that kind of life. The son refuses to worship idols on the mountains and does not commit adultery. He does not exploit the poor, but instead is fair to debtors and does not rob them. He gets food to the hungry and provides clothes for the needy. He helps the poor, does not lend money and interest, and obeys all my regulations and decrees. Such a person will not die because of his father's sins; He will surely live. But the father will die for his many sins, for being cruel, robbing people and doing what was clearly wrong among his people. What, you ask? Doesn't the child pay for the parent's sins? No! If the child does what is just and right and keeps my decrees, that child will surely live. The person who sins is the one who will die. The child will not be punished for the parent's sins, and the parent will not be punished for the child's sins. Righteous people will be rewarded for their own righteous behavior. And wicked people will be punished for their own wickedness.

Biblical principle: Your DNA, your upbringing, and the environment you were raised in might explain why you have the tendency to behave the way you do, but it doesn't excuse your behavior.

Applying free will according to God's will

How do you apply the doctrine of free will when you're praying for someone to be saved?

1 John 5:14-15 - This is the confidence that we have in him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us: And if we know that he hears us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

Is it God's will that everyone be saved? Yes.

2 Peter 3:9 says - The Lord is not slack concerning his promises, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering towards us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Will everyone be saved that we pray for? No. Why not? Because man has a free will. And God will not violate man's free will.

Is it God's will to force a person to be saved? No, that would violate man's free will.

Though I can't pray that God will force someone to be saved, I can pray that God will convict them, to be saved.

How God deals with the heart of man

Proverbs 21:1 - The king's heart is like a river in the hand of the Lord. He turns it wherever he wishes.

So let me give you three facts about rivers changing courses:

1. A river can change its course slowly over a long period of time, or it can change its course quickly and dramatically as the result of a major flood.

2. The greatest factor in changing the course of a river is flooding.

3. Rivers don't change their course in the mountains, they change their course in the valleys.

When you're praying for someone to be saved, you have to realize that God is going to have to change their heart.

Deuteronomy 8:10-11 - When you have eaten your fill, be sure to praise the Lord your God for the good land He has given you. But that is the time to be careful. Beware that in your plenty you do not forget the Lord your God and disobey His commands, regulations, and decrees that I am giving you today.

1 Corinthians 5:5 - Hand this man over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh so that his spirit may be saved on the day of the Lord.