

Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God

~ *Selected Scriptures* ~

Divine Compatibilism:

Absolute divine sovereignty is compatible with human significance and real human choices.

Antinomy:

Two apparently contradictory facts that are not contradictory in God's economy or mind.



Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God

~ *Selected Scriptures* ~

What is God's Sovereignty?

It is God's ability to do anything that is consistent with His character.



Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God

~ *Selected Scriptures* ~

God's ability to do anything...

Ps 115:3 Our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases.

Job 38:1 Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said 3... I will ask you, and you instruct Me! 4 "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell *Me*, if you have understanding ...



Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God

~ *Selected Scriptures* ~

God's ability to do anything...

Isaiah 46:9 ...For I am God, and there is no other; *I am* God, and there is no one like Me, 10 Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, 'My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure'; 11 Calling a bird of prey from the east, The man of My purpose from a far country. Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass.



Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God

~ *Selected Scriptures* ~

...consistent with His Character

Titus 1:2 in the hope of eternal life, which *God, who cannot lie*, promised long ages ago,

James 1:13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; *for God cannot be tempted by evil...*

2 Timothy 2:13 If we are faithless, He remains faithful, *for He cannot deny Himself.*



Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God

~ *Selected Scriptures* ~

What Does it Mean - Man has "Freewill?"

- Man can make real, moral choices in accord with his inner desire and they affect his existence in real, tangible ways.



Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God

~ *Selected Scriptures* ~

What Freewill does NOT Mean

- It cannot mean that man can choose whatever he wants.
- It does not mean that man has the ability to choose his salvation apart from God's help
- Man's freedom is not autonomous but is limited by his finiteness and spiritual deadness

Eph 2

John 6



Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God

~ *Selected Scriptures* ~

Man is Responsible for His Unbelief

Romans 10:9 that if *you confess* with your mouth Jesus *as Lord*, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. 18 "He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because *he has not believed* in the name of the only begotten Son of God.



Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God

~ *Selected Scriptures* ~

Man is Responsible for His Unbelief

John 8:24 "Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am *He*, you will die in your sins."



How do we resolve this tension?

I have not found a satisfying answer to that [tension] nor do I expect to in this life.

- David Clotfelter

We do not understand how God can ordain that we carryout evil deeds and yet hold us accountable for them and not be blamed himself.

- Wayne Grudem



Predestination: for years the very word made me angry. I didn't just consider the idea wrong; I believed it to be demonic. It made God into a tyrant and human life into a puppet show.

- David Clotfelter



What is Predestination?

... is an act of God, before creation, in which He chooses some people to be *in relationship*, not on account of any foreseen merit in them, but only because of His sovereign good pleasure.

- Wayne Grudem

In the NT it speaks of a saving relationship with God through Jesus Christ.



Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God

~ *Selected Scriptures* ~

Predestination/Election in the O.T.

Deut 7:6 ...the LORD your God has chosen you [*election*] to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. 7 "The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any of the peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples

- Ezekiel 16, Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, David



Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God

~ *Selected Scriptures* ~

Predestination/Election in the N.T.

Eph 1:4 just as He [God] *chose us* in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love 5 He *predestined* us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will

Eph 1:11 also we have obtained an inheritance, having been *predestined* according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,



Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God

~ *Selected Scriptures* ~

Predestination/Election in the N.T.

1 Thess 1:4 knowing, brethren beloved by God, *His choice* of you;

2 Thess 2:13 But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has *chosen you from the beginning for salvation* through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.

Acts 13:48 When the Gentiles heard this, they *began* rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord; and as *many as had been appointed* to eternal life believed.



Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God

~ *Selected Scriptures* ~

Does God Choose You Because You Choose Him?

Romans 8:29 For **those** whom He foreknew, He also *predestined to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; 30 and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.



Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God

~ *Selected Scriptures* ~

Four Reasons Why The Sovereignty of God in Salvation Enhances Our Evangelism

1. It Gives Us Hope in Evangelism.
2. It Gives Us Boldness in Evangelism.
3. It Gives Us Comfort and Patience in Evangelism.
4. It Gives Us Guaranteed Success in evangelism.



Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God

~ *Selected Scriptures* ~

Why We NEED A God Who is Sovereign in Salvation

Because Gospel preaching (biblically defined) demands that - Finite men with inherently faulty logic and imperfect lives are required to convince spiritually dead people to come to life and embrace incomprehensible and offense truth.

In fact, the only infinite man with perfect logic and impeccable living could not convince people to believe - without dying for them first!

