

Kingdom News

Yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever... (Matt. 6:13)

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The Chief Cornerstone



The Will of God

What Does God Really Want?

What is the WILL of God? Where does it come from?

It seems reasonable to ask these two questions in this order. But we'll address them in the reverse order, for reasons that may be apparent along the way. *Where does the WILL of God come from?* The WILL of God comes from the very nature of God. The WILL of God is an expression of His nature. God's WILL is consistent with "Who" God is. The question follows then, "*Who is God?*" Of the many "names" we have for God, the sum of them is that He is "the Only True and Living God;" and beside Him there is no other. He said so, Himself.⁽¹⁾ *What is the WILL of God?* If it is true that the WILL of God issues from His very nature. And if it is true that God is the only true and living God. Then it follows that His WILL is "that He be known or acknowledged as the only true and living God." Let's let that marinade; while we have a look at the will of man.

What is the will of man? Where does it come from?

Let's continue in the same vein and address these questions in the reverse order. But before we get to those specific questions; will you come take a stroll with me?

When we talk about the "will of man;" we often use the term "freewill." I've done it too. The term "freewill" has become colloquial. By its use we tend to come to a common understand of what is being addressed. I can respect that. The challenge here is that when something becomes so common to us; it can often cause us to lose our bearings; especially if we don't retain the criticality of our thinking. Once the dye is caste in our minds; it almost takes a stick of dynamite to dislodge one's thinking on that matter. That being said, I'm going to challenge your thinking (and mine) a bit. You don't mind, do you?

One dictionary defines *freewill* (you'll love this) as "*the power attributed especially to human beings, of making free choices that are unconstrained by external circumstances or by necessity.*" Now I won't try to persuade you with this, because it could wreck your whole worldview. But will you humor me though; and allow me to think aloud?

When I read this, I thought to myself, "I am not presently aware of any choices that we make that are not constrained by either external circumstances or by necessity." Said otherwise, "every single choice we make has the constraint of external circumstance or necessity." Some of the

most prominent external circumstances that affect our choices are the laws of God, and even man-made laws (be they spiritual, moral, legislative, physical, natural, etc.).⁽²⁾ You'll want to bookmark this, because it will surface again, downstream. Now, remember, this is me sharing my "thoughts" with you.

So we see that the dictionary has a definition for "freewill." However this term in the (KJV) scriptures only seems to reference a type of "freewill offering" that Israel was permitted to bring before the Lord; in addition to their prescribed offerings.⁽³⁾ The (KJV) scriptures do not seem to use the term "freewill" interchangeably with "man's will."

Is it possible that when we talk of our "freewill" we're actually intending to reference man's dominion? The scriptures do speak to us of our dominion. However, the use of the terms "freewill and dominion" interchangeably might be liken to "comparing apples to oranges."

- Dominion – a territory or sphere of influence or control; realm. (Authority that is circumscribed -- Apple)
- Freewill – volition that is unconstrained by external circumstances or necessity. (Authority that is not circumscribed -- Orange)

Can you see how this might be a bit of a challenge to reconcile? If "dominion" and "freewill" were two people, this is what could be said of them.

- "Dominion" is the "ox that knows its Master's crib."⁽⁴⁾ "Freewill" not only doesn't know its Master's crib; it doesn't even believe it has a Master. "Freewill" admits of no governance, apart from self. It sings of its independence.
- "Dominion" admits that its jurisdiction is circumscribed or given to it by a Sovereign. "Freewill" acknowledges none of this.
- If these two were servants, "dominion" would be the faithful servant in Matthew 24:45-47. "Freewill" would be the husbandmen over the vineyard in Matthew 21:33-40.
- "Dominion" knows that it is a servant; "freewill" does not know that it is a servant. "Freewill" believes that it is the "master of its own destiny." "Dominion" knows that it is part of (and responsible to) a larger seat of Authority.⁽⁵⁾

Now, now ... now let's just consider that I'm still thinking out loud. Since the scriptures don't speak to us of "freewill" per se; let's use the term "dominion." And we'll go back to our original questions: *Where does man's "dominion" come from?* This is an easy question. It was given to us by God⁽⁶⁾ where He said "Let us make man ... and let them have "freewill" I mean dominion ..." *What is the will of man?* In short, it is the vehicle or faculty by which we exercise dominion.

What is the relationship between the two wills? When these wills are not in agreement; when they are in discord; when they are incongruent, which one reigns supreme?

Now you're asking the difficult questions. Wisdom dictates that difficult and complex discussions and discourses be accompanied by caveats, qualifiers or disclaimers to mitigate confusion, misunderstanding and misinterpretation. That being the case, allow me to disclaim the following:

Disclaimer: I am certain that you know that I am not the final authority on this. I am simply a courier, delivering a package. What I share with you is what I have received.

May the Lord God judge in righteousness; and may He (and His truth) ever be indemnified from the error of my humanity.

Now to the questions at hand: *What is the relationship between the two wills?* God's WILL is Sovereign; it is only bound by the law of His nature. God cannot "do or be" anything that He *is not*. And vice versa, He cannot deny Himself.⁽⁷⁾ Even our reasoning faculty affirms this of God; as well as of ourselves. In the Sovereignty of God, He has elected to apportion to man a measure of "dominion." He has ascribed to us a jurisdiction of influence and control. That notwithstanding God still retains sovereign governance over all authorities and dominions. That is the relationship between the two.

Sidebar: Also in the Sovereign Wisdom of God, He has assigned a portion of dominion to Satan, too. Although the full breadth and width of that dominion is as yet unknown to us; we get a wink of a judicial prohibition of the enemy's dominion (or scope of operation) on the earth in Genesis 3:14. We also get a glimpse of a temporal, executive broadening of the enemy's power in the earth from Revelation 13:7-8. And although we are not permitted to operate in the enemy's realm of authority; we may certainly allow him to operate in ours. And, trust, that he is working very intently to do just that.⁽⁸⁾ Again, in a larger sense, it is the Sovereignty of God that assigns dominion; and this very same sovereignty retains jurisdiction over all assigned dominions.⁽⁹⁾

Although God originally gave, to man, dominion over the earth; this license was given in a realm already subject to the laws of God. Example: We have dominion. But there is a sense in which we are not "free" to exercise authority over the will of another man. Legislatively it is prohibited. But, judicially, it can be done; it is "doable." But we are not permitted to engage at that level. Transactions in that sphere of governance are "occult," and are categorically forbidden. You may read that again, if you like.

Are we free to choose, then? Absolutely!!! Not only are we free to choose, but we have a godly responsibility to do so.

We have, what amounts to, two choices. We are free to choose "life" or "death." Each time we make a choice between these two options, the laws that govern these options come into force.⁽¹⁰⁾ And all of the subsequent transactions are governed by the laws of either of these two.

Here are a few examples on a remedial scale: When the Lord gave Israel the commandments, He said, "Okay choose."⁽¹¹⁾ And once Israel made their choice, then everything followed from there.⁽¹²⁾ They did not get to choose an option and forego the inherent consequences; nor do we. Let's say a young man decides to get married. He may be young and may still think that life operates in a vacuum. And he may mistakenly think that he's made a solitary choice of "marriage." But soon enough he will experience a rude awakening that not only do the "rights" of marriage accrue to him. But so, too, do the "responsibilities" of marriage.

If we choose "life;" then all of the laws of life begin to hold sway over us. And if we choose "death" then all of the laws that govern death, reign. So it is the case in every area of our lives. All of these transactions are circumscribed and governed by the Sovereign WILL of God. Nothing is outside of the sovereignty of God's WILL ... nothing! Not even our dominion.

What is to be said for the situations when our will does not accord with God's WILL?

Let's see ... if God's will is "that He be known to be the only true and living God." And if it is true that His laws govern all of existence; then His WILL shall always be manifestly operational and governing. We'll explore that after we deal with a potential myth, regarding the WILL of God.

Myth (dispelled): Is it possible that we misunderstand God's WILL to be that we "obey" Him; that we obey His Commandments or His Law? This is what I used to think; that it is the WILL of God that I hear Him and obey Him. That being my frame of reference, it made sense then that I also believed that man's disobedience to God, somehow translated into the WILL of God not being done in the life of the disobedient one. (That disobedient one was usually me. Thank God for His loooong-suffering grace.) From that you can see how I thought that the WILL of God could be preempted by our "freewill;" but this not the case at all. Now please don't misunderstand me to be saying that our "obedience to God" is not valuable and important. It is imperative. But there is a sense in which (Fasten your seatbelts) ... our obedience to God is more important to *our own* well-being than it is to the well-being of God. I know, I know ... that hurts, doesn't it? We want our obedience to be important to God. And in one sense "it is." But it is exceeding abundantly (smiling) more important to the success of our *own lives*; than it is to the success of God's WILL. If we obey God, we reap the fruits of righteousness. If we elect to disobey God, we reap the consequences. If *we* sow to the wind, *we* reap the whirlwind.⁽¹³⁾ The WILL of God, gets along just fine, in either case. How is that, actually?

How is it that His WILL is always manifestly operational and governing? Well, if we obey Him, the benefits of that obedience tend to prove that the Lord is God and beside Him there is no other. One of the laws that follow obedience is that "no weapon formed against us shall prosper." And we see the truth of that law, very evidently, when we walk in obedience. And if we elect to disobey Him, the repercussions of that breach (as painful as they are), prove that the Lord is God and beside Him there is no other. That's one reason that the pain of our disobedience is so potentially valuable. When we disobey and (based on the laws that are in place) we experience the painful consequences of that disobedience; we are supposed to there acknowledge that the Lord is right and just when He says things like "thou shall not commit adultery" or "thou shall not kill." So we see that the WILL of God is much, much more than regards our obedience. The WILL of God is that we may know that He alone is the only true and living God. And every law that He has invoked within the realm of our dominion, will prove this to us; whether or not we elect to obey.

Lastly, if the will of man can trump (or abort) the WILL of God then there follows a most terrifying reality. Allow me to use one of God's own laws (true both in logic and in mathematics) to magnify this point. Let's identify "A, B and C" as follows:

A = the will of the enemy
B = the will of man
C = the WILL of God

This is the hypothesis, using the *Transitive Law of Mathematics and Logic*:⁽¹⁴⁾

- If the will of the enemy can usurp authority over the will of man ($A > B$);⁽¹⁵⁾ and
- If the will of man can somehow annul the will of God ($B > C$);⁽¹⁶⁾ then
- The will of the enemy can trump God's WILL ($A > C$)

Can you see how subversive and devastating is the outworking of the assumption that our “freewill” or dominion can supersede the will of God; in any sense?

Encapsulated: If our dominion somehow trumps (or aborts) the WILL of God in any sense; then how can we expect that God’s WILL can protect us from the enemy’s will? *IF* our fragile, human will can trump God’s WILL; then the enemy’s substantially stronger will can also trump (or abort) God’s WILL. Don’t like the sound of that, do we? The operative word here is “*IF*.” And if our fragile, human will trumps God’s WILL in any sense, when the enemy usurps authority over man’s will; then the enemy will have accomplished his original task of exalting his throne above the stars of God.⁽¹⁷⁾

B-r-e-a-t-h-e (sigh)

So we took the scenic route. It is my humble petition that we have not done a disservice to this very broad, very lofty and very deep truth of God. As men, we can talk about simply things like “whether we should read our Bibles with the lights on or with the light off; without a great deal of trepidation.” But when we approach the very Person of God and His attributes; we NEED Him to be very present and very transparent and very interpretive, lest we do a grave injustice to the beauty and eternity of His truth.

May the Lord be glorified in the work of His hands? And may every knee bow and every tongue confess that “Jesus Christ is the only true and living God” to the glory of God the Father ... beginning with me. <cc>

Sr. Editor, JoAnn C. White, sMHG

Scripture References - King James Version (KJV)

⁽¹⁾ Isaiah 43:11; 44:6; 44:8; 45:5-6, 21; 47:8,10; 1 Chronicles 17:20; Deuteronomy 4:35; 1 Samuel 2:2

⁽²⁾ Romans 7:1

⁽³⁾ Leviticus 22:18, 21, 23; Numbers 15:3; Deuteronomy 12:6,17; 2 Chronicles 31:14, in the book of Ezra, etc.

⁽⁴⁾ Isaiah 1:3

⁽⁵⁾ Romans 13:1-2

⁽⁶⁾ Genesis 1:26; Romans 13:1-2

⁽⁷⁾ John 8:55

⁽⁸⁾ Revelation 17:13

⁽⁹⁾ Romans 13:1

⁽¹⁰⁾ Colossians 1:13

⁽¹¹⁾ Deuteronomy 30:19

⁽¹²⁾ Deuteronomy 28:1-2, 15

⁽¹³⁾ Hosea 8:7

⁽¹⁴⁾ The *Transitive Law of Mathematics and Logic*: If $a > b$, and $b > c$, then $a > c$. Stated definitively: In mathematics and logic, if A bears some relation to B and B bears the same relation to C , then A bears that same relationship to C . Retrieved 5/29/10 from <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/602836/transitive-law>

⁽¹⁵⁾ Genesis 3

⁽¹⁶⁾ Under the assumption that if man’s will disagrees with God’s WILL then by an act of our “freewill” we can disallow or abort God’s WILL

⁽¹⁷⁾ Isaiah 14:12-14; Ezekiel 28:2, 6