

Notes on God's Sovereignty and the Doctrine of Election

- C. The sovereignty of God and the doctrine of Election
1. The sovereignty of God says that God can do whatever He wants, which is true, and the doctrine of election implies that He might decide who will be saved and who will be lost.
 2. **Difficult spiritual truths such as these can be better understood axiomatically when taking into consideration less difficult truths.**
 - a. Every word of the Bible is true. Therefore, when two passages seem to contradict each other, then we are interpreting at least one of them incorrectly. Our challenge is to always rightly divide the Word of God.
 - b. God can do whatever He wants (***His sovereignty***). So the real question is, what does He want to do?
 - 1) He could condemn everyone to Hell, but He WANTS people to be saved from His wrath.
 - a) II Peter 3:9 says, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, ***not willing that any should perish***, but that all should come to repentance."
 - b) Jonah 3:6-7 says, "For word came unto the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, and he laid his robe from him, and covered him with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. And he caused it to be proclaimed and published through Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste any thing: let them not feed, nor drink water:"
 - c) God had every right to destroy Nineveh, but He showed them mercy.
 - d) God could have destroyed Rahab, but He did not (Joshua 6:17).
 - e) So that everyone can have the chance to be saved, He reveals Himself to people in two clear ways. They are general revelation (source outside the Bible) and special revelation (the Bible).
 - f) Titus 2:11 says, "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,"
 - 2) The Lord could leave us alone, but He WANTS to enter into a personal relationship with us so that we can enjoy fellowship with Him (Romans 5:10).
 - 3) The Lord could leave us without a spiritual Guide, but He WANTS to indwell us with the Holy Spirit so that we can have a Comforter in our daily walk (John 16:7).
 - 4) Everything that God WANTS is ultimately good for human beings. Can any saved person really point a finger at God and call Him unjust or unfair? I think not. Therefore, we do not need to be worried or concerned about God exercising His sovereignty.

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- c. The *doctrine of election* suggests that the Lord is making different choices (electing to do some things) for or against certain individuals. So the real question is, what is He electing to do?
- 1) He could choose who to send to Hell and who not to send, but He does not do that. Instead, He offers an escape from the penalty of sin.
 - 2) John 3:16-17 says, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."
 - 3) Romans 8:29-30 says, "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified."
 - 4) God does not choose who to save and who not to save. Individuals make the choice to receive Him or reject Him.
 - a) According to John 3:16-17, God CHOSE to offer His son on the cross for our benefit.
 - b) According to Romans 8:29, God CHOOSES to conform those that come to Him to the image of His Son, and again, this is to our benefit.
 - c) According to Romans 8:30, those that choose the Lord become the elect. God does not choose who will be the elect and who will not. But He is omniscient and He knows beforehand the decision that people will make.
- d. **CONCLUSION: A good and loving God CHOOSES or ELECTS to do good things for everyone that will come to Him by faith, and He CHOOSES or ELECTS to turn those that come to Him into better people.**