

Confessing the Faith Like It's 1689

Chapter 9—Free Will

1. God has endued the will of man with that **natural liberty** and power of acting upon choice, that it is neither forced, nor by any necessity of nature determined to do good or evil. (Matthew 17:12; James 1:14; Deuteronomy 30:19)

2. Man, in his **state of innocency**, had freedom and power to will and to do that which was good and well-pleasing to God, but yet was unstable, so that he might fall from it. (Ecclesiastes 7:29; Genesis 3:6)

3. Man, by his fall into a **state of sin**, has wholly lost all ability of will to any spiritual good accompanying salvation; so as a natural man, being altogether averse from that good, and dead in sin, is not able by his own strength to convert himself, or to prepare himself thereunto [i.e. for conversion]. (Romans 5:6; Romans 8:7; Ephesians 2:1, 5; Titus 3:3-5; John 6:44)

4. When God converts a sinner, and translates him into the **state of grace**, he frees him from his natural bondage under sin, and by his grace alone enables him freely to will and to do that which is spiritually good; yet [because of] his remaining corruptions, he does not perfectly, nor only, will that which is good, but does also will that which is evil. (Colossians 1:13; John 8:36; Philippians 2:13; Romans 7:15, 18, 19, 21, 23)

5. This will of man is made perfectly and immutably free to good alone in the **state of glory** only. (Ephesians 4:13)

- I. Free Will In Every State
- II. Free Will in the State of Innocence: _____ to _____ and _____ not to _____.
- III. Free Will in the State of Sin: _____ not to _____.
- IV. Free Will in the State of Grace: _____ not to _____ and _____ to _____.
- V. Free Will in the State of Glory: not _____ to _____