

Romans 8:28-30

***-For Those Whom He Foreknew He
Also Predestined Part II***

**-Chapter 9 – Free Will (1689 Second
London Baptist Confession of
Faith)**

1. God has endowed human will with natural liberty and power to act on choices so that it is neither forced nor inherently bound by nature to do good or evil.

Matthew 17:12; James 1:14;

Deuteronomy 30:19

2. Humanity in the state of innocence had freedom and power to will and to do what was good and well-pleasing to God. Yet this condition was unstable, so that humanity could fall from it.

Ecclesiastes 7:29; Genesis 3:6

3. Humanity, by falling into a state of sin, has completely lost all ability to choose spiritual good that accompanies salvation. Thus, people in their natural state are absolutely opposed to spiritual good and dead in sin, so that they cannot convert themselves by their own strength or prepare themselves for conversion. Romans 5:6; Romans 8:7; Ephesians 2:1, 5; Titus 3:3-5; John 6:44

4. When God converts sinners and converts them into the state of grace, He frees them from their natural bondage to sin and by His grace alone enables them to will and to do freely what is spiritually good. Yet because of their remaining corruption, they do not perfectly nor exclusively will what is evil.

Colossians 1:13; John 8:36; Philippians 2:13;

Romans 7:15, 18, 19, 21, 23

**5. Only in the state of glory is the
will made perfectly and
unchangeably free toward good
alone.**

Ephesians 4:13

-So, before the fall, Adam had both the ability to sin and the ability not to sin.

-After the fall, Adam and all mankind descending from him had no ability NOT to sin in his fallen state.

-Once saved by faith, humans have the ability not to sin—we are no longer enslaved to it, though not perfectly because we do still have the ability to sin and are vulnerable to sin because we are still in these mortal bodies. Romans 8:10 (ESV) But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

-Once we are in heaven and no longer burdened by these mortal bodies, and ultimately clothed in our glorified bodies, we will no longer even possess the ability to sin.

-Antinomy: these two doctrines stand side by side, seemingly irreconcilable yet both undeniable.

-“What should one do, then, with an antinomy? Accept it for what it is, and learn to live with it. Refuse to regard the apparent inconsistency as real: put down the semblance of contradiction to the deficiency of your own understanding: think of the two principles as not rival alternatives, but, in some way that at present you do not grasp, complimentary of each other.—J.I. Packer, *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God*

**-Eternal and temporal revelations
of God**

-1 John 3:1-2 (LSB) 1 See how great a love the Father has given to us, that we would be called children of God; and we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. 2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not been manifested as yet what we will be. We know that when He is manifested, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.

-1 Corinthians 13:8-12 (LSB) 8 Love never fails, but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part, 10 but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away. 11 When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child. When I became a man, I did away with childish things. 12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known.

-Isaiah 55:8-9 (ESV) 8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

-I've said all that and what I said two weeks ago to lay the foundation that our responsibility regarding this subject is to ask and answer the question, "What does the Bible say?" and faithfully submit ourselves to what it says.

-Philippians 2:5-8 (ESV) 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

-1 Peter 2:21-25 (ESV) 21 For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. 22 He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. 23 When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. 24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. 25 For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

-Colossians 1:15 (ESV) He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

-Colossians 1:18 (ESV) And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.

**-Hebrews 1:6 (ESV) And again,
when he brings the firstborn into
the world, he says, “Let all God’s
angels worship him.”**

**-Revelation 1:5 (ESV) and from
Jesus Christ the faithful witness,
the firstborn of the dead, and the
ruler of kings on earth. To him who
loves us and has freed us from our
sins by his blood**

-Exodus 4:22 (ESV) Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the LORD, Israel is my firstborn son,

-Jeremiah 31:9 (ESV) With weeping they shall come, and with pleas for mercy I will lead them back, I will make them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble, for I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

-Psalms 89:20, 27-29 (ESV) I have found David, my servant; with my holy oil I have anointed him,... 27 And I will make him the firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth. 28 My steadfast love I will keep for him forever, and my covenant will stand firm for him. 29 I will establish his offspring forever and his throne as the days of the heavens.

-Hebrews 12:22-24 (ESV) 22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, 23 and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, 24 and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

-Colossians 1:15-20 (ESV) 15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. (*This is a genitive of association, not of source.*) 16 For *by him all things were created*, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--*all things were created through him and for him.* 17 And *he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.* 18 And *he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.* 19 For *in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,* 20 and through him *to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.*

-Philippians 2:5-11 (ESV) 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**-“I dread more than anything your
being left to your own free will.” —**

C.H. Spurgeon

**-When the Canaanites hardened their hearts against God,
And grieved Him because of their sin,
God sent along hornets to bring them to terms,
And to help His own people to win.
If a nest of live hornets were brought to this room,
And the creatures allowed to go free,
You would not need urging to make yourself scarce,
You'd want to get out, don't you see!
They would not lay and by force of their strength,
Throw you out of the window, oh, no!
They would not compel you to go against your will,
But they would just make you willing to go.**

**When Jonah was sent to the work of the Lord,
The outlook was not very bright.
He never had done such a hard thing before,
So he backed and ran off from the fight.
Now the Lord sent a great fish to swallow him
up,
The story I am sure you all know.
God did not compel him to go against his will,
But He just made him willing to go.—Ernest
Reisinger, *God's Will, Man's Will, And Free Will***