

The Sovereignty of God & Man's Free Will

Introduction:

A. The theology of Protestant denominationalism is based on Calvinism.

If in your investigation, you probe into the history and influence of Calvinism, you will discover that its doctrines have been incorporated into the majority of the great creeds of the Protestant churches (David N. Steele and Curtis C. Thomas, **The Five Points of Calvinism**).

B. This theology is now influencing many Christians.

C. The basis and foundation of Calvinism is the tenet that the sovereignty of God rules out man's free will.

*For to Calvinism there is really only **one** point to be made in the field of soteriology: the point that **God saves sinners**: **Saves** does everything, first to last, that is involved in bringing man from death in sin to life in glory.... sinners do not save themselves in any sense at all* (Ibid. 23).

D. Can the sovereignty of God be reconciled with man's state as a free moral agent?

I. God is sovereign. - Acts 17:24; 1 Corinthians 10:26

II. If God's sovereignty means man has no choice as to whether he will believe or disbelieve, obey or disobey, then:

A. Man cannot err, for everything we do is ordained of God. - James 5:19-20; cf. Jeremiah 7:31; 19:5; 32:35

"The Scriptures not only teach that God predestined certain individuals unto eternal life, but that all events, both small and great, come about as the result of God's decree" (**Five Points**, 37).

B. When we sin we both fulfill and violate God's will. - Titus 2:11-12; 1 Corinthians 10:13

C. God is the ultimate source and cause of all sin. - James 1:13-14

D. God will destroy sinners for doing what He made them do and rejecting what they could not accept. - Psalm 89:14

III. God's sovereignty is **not** incompatible with man's free will (It exalts the power of God to realize He is capable of creating a creature with free will.).

A. God has ordained human action, but men violate these ordinances continually. - Titus 2:11-12; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

B. God changes His decrees concerning man to fit human action (i.e., His decisions to bless or curse are conditioned upon obedience or disobedience). - Ezekiel 18:21-31; Jonah 3:1-4,10

IV. Man is a free moral agent.

A. You can choose your own way in life. - Joshua 24:15; Acts 2:40; Revelation 22:17

B. But you are responsible for the choice you make and must bear the consequences of your decision. - Deuteronomy 30:11-20; Romans 2:2-11

Conclusion:

A. God in His sovereignty purposed and worked out the plan of human salvation. - Romans 11:34-36

B. We must exercise our own free will to either accept or reject that salvation. - Revelation 22:17