

Armenians – Free will or Sovereign control? (Like 2 pedals on a bike)

Can things happen outside of God's will?

Is everything that happens **God's will**, or can things happen which are **not God's will**?

For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother.” (Mark 3:35 ESV)

Is everyone on earth doing God's will? If so, is everyone Jesus' brother and sister and mother?

They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. (John 16:2 ESV)

Was it God's will to kill Christians? And yet, this still happened.

but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish. (Matthew 18:6, 14 ESV)

Was it God's will for those little ones to sin and perish? And yet, this still happened to some.

For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; (1 Thessalonians 4:3 ESV)

Now, we all know that some Christians have committed sexual immortality. Some even did so in the pages of the Bible. And yet, God's will is the **opposite**.

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 7:21 ESV)

Jesus here explicitly says that **not everyone is doing the will of God, not even among Christians.**

John Piper, John MacArthur, RC Sproul, ... CALVANISM...

“The Bible sweepingly says that everything human beings do is, in the end, the will of God.”

“It’s arrogant to think you’re in control. God is in control.”

[James 4:13–15](#): “Come now, you who say, ‘Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit’ — yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say” — this is what the biblical inspired writer James says we ought to say — “‘If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.’”

Permitting or Controlling?

Lastly, God’s permission for Satan or man to act is nevertheless part of God’s ultimate design and final control. I’m trying to respond here to someone who says, “Well, God doesn’t control everything, but he permits lots of

things.” I’m saying that’s right. He certainly does permit lots of things. How should we understand an all-knowing God with perfect foreknowledge permitting something in his infinite wisdom?

Even in situations where God is *permitting*, he is *permitting by design*. When you permit something and you know what it’s going to do and you know all of its outcomes and you go ahead and permit it, you permit it wisely if you’re God — and then it wisely fits into the overall pattern of what you are planning and doing.

Let me end with a statement and a question. The statement is that human beings are responsible, accountable, praiseworthy, or blameworthy for what they do. God’s sovereignty does not diminish human accountability. That’s the statement.

The question is, which world would you rather live in? One where humans or Satan or chance govern what happens to you? Or one where an infinitely good, infinitely wise, infinitely powerful God works everything together for the good of those who trust him and for his glory?