

Knowing God's Will

Session 1 – Selected Scriptures

Theme: _____

Two Questions About God's Will:

I. What is _____ ?

A. God's S_____ Will (Will of D_____)

Definitions

Countryside Doctrinal Statement/Distinctives

We believe and teach that God the Father, the first Person of the Trinity, orders and executes all things according to His own purpose and grace...As the only absolute and omnipotent Ruler in the universe, He is sovereign in creation, providence, and redemption. He has decreed for His own glory all things that come to pass. He continually upholds, directs, and governs all creatures and events. In His sovereignty He is neither the author nor approver of sin, nor does He diminish or destroy the accountability of moral, intelligent creatures.

We believe God is absolutely sovereign over everything that happens in His universe. Psalm 103:19 says, "The LORD has established His throne in the heavens, and His sovereignty rules over all." God has supreme and unfettered freedom and power to act. Sovereign is what God is—by virtue of being God, He rules. Providence is what He does—He carries out His rule by actually administering every detail in His creation.

Westminster Confession

God from all eternity, did, by the most wise and holy counsel of His own will, freely, and unchangeably ordain whatsoever comes to pass; yet so, as thereby neither is God the author of sin, nor is violence offered to the will of the creatures; nor is the liberty or contingency of second causes taken away, but rather established.

Is this aspect of God's will biblical?

What is the purpose of God's sovereign will?

What is included in God's sovereign will?

B. God's M_____ Will (Will of D_____)

Definitions

Wayne Grudem

God's declared will concerning what we should do or what God commands us to do.

Garry Friesen

God's moral will consists of the revealed commands in the Bible that teach how people ought to believe and live.

Kevin DeYoung

...what God has commanded—what He desires from His creatures. If the will of decree is how things are, the will of desire is how things ought to be.

Is this aspect of God's will biblical?

What is the purpose of God's moral will?

How is God's moral will revealed?

C. God's I _____ Will (Will of D _____)???

Definitions

Garry Friesen

God's ideal, detailed life-plan uniquely designed for each person.

Kevin DeYoung

...His individual, specific plan for the who, what, where, when, and how of our lives.

Is this aspect of God's will biblical?

II. What is God's Will _____ ?

**How to Know the Will of God, John MacArthur*

A. S _____

B. S _____

C. S_____

D. S_____

E. S_____

Implications:

Concerning God's sovereign will:

- 1) You can't break God's sovereign will
- 2) God knows that you are not omniscient

Concerning God's moral will:

- 3) Even if there is not a "right" decision, there is always a right way to make it
- 4) When making decisions, God's moral will should be primarily on your mind
(not God's sovereign will)

Concerning God's "individual" will:

- 5) If you are walking in God's moral will (saved, sanctified, etc.), do not fear that you are not "walking in God's will"

*If you are seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,
you will be in God's will, so just go out and do something.*

Kevin DeYoung

The Right Way to Know and Do God's Will

Session 3 – Selected Scriptures

Theme: _____

Four Steps to Doing God's Will:

I. Trust in God's _____

II. Ask for God's _____

A. Ask _____

B. Ask God's _____

C. Ask God's _____

III. Use Wise _____

A. Avoid _____ Language

B. Use _____ Language

IV. Make Wise _____ (1 Kings 3:16–28)

A. Confirm _____ (16–23)

B. Pursue _____ (24–26)

C. Make _____ (27)

D. Trust _____ (28)

So the end of the matter is this: Live for God. Obey the Scriptures.

Think of others before yourself. Be holy. Love Jesus.

*And as you do these things, do whatever else you like, with whomever you like,
wherever you like, and you'll be walking in the will of God.*

Kevin DeYoung

Additional Thoughts

Trust in God's Providence

- 1) Remind yourself often of God's sovereignty
- 2) Don't allow worry to dominate your thoughts
- 3) Be flexible and thankful when the Lord "directs your steps"

Ask for God's Wisdom

- 1) Practice praying all the time (not just when you are in crisis decision mode!)
- 2) Read the Scriptures often so that you are molding your thinking to Christ's
- 3) Build relationships with mature people in the church before you need their advice
- 4) Ask counsel from a variety of people

Use Wise Language

- 1) Work hard to think in biblical terms, not worldly ones
- 2) Practice using biblical/wise language in your everyday conversations

Make Wise Decisions

- 1) Learn to ask good questions and not to assume things
- 2) Don't be lazy, do the research if you need to
- 3) There are very few times in your life where being patient is the wrong decision
- 4) Planning ahead will help you make better quick decisions

Questions to consider the morality of your decision

**Dusty Burris & Partners 1on1 Discipleship Program (Fabarez)*

- 1) Is it really a nonmoral decision? Or is it a clear biblical command/prohibition?
- 2) Are there any related biblical commands or principles that apply to this situation?
- 3) Is this an issue for my spouse's conscience?
- 4) Am I fully convinced in my own mind that my decision honors Christ? (Can I glorify God in it? Would Jesus do it? Would I like to be doing it when Jesus returns? When my pastor is watching? Do I have any doubts?
- 5) Will my decision cause another brother to sin? Or confuse a new believer?
- 6) Will my decision cause the Gospel to be maligned? Or confuse an unbeliever?
- 7) Will my decision cause disunity in the church?
- 8) Will my decision praise sin in any way?

Questions to consider the practical results of your decision

- 1) How will this decision bring God the most glory?
- 2) How will this decision affect my soul/spiritual wellbeing? My health/physical wellbeing?
- 3) How will this decision affect my spouse (or ability/plan to have a spouse)?
- 4) How will this decision affect my children (or ability/plan to have children)?
- 5) How will this decision affect my involvement in the church (worship, fellowship, service)?
- 6) How will this decision affect my extended family/parents?
- 7) How will this decision affect my career (ability to provide for myself/my family)?
- 8) How will this decision affect my neighbor/community?