

His Sovereignty, Our Agency

Most engaged Christians are not overly burdened with false doctrines. Our problems come more often from wrong conclusions drawn from good doctrines.

I have heard that God is sovereign over everything. If this is so, do I really have a free will? If I don't, then what's the point of praying, seeking, or serving God?

If I do have a free will, how does THAT work? What is my part, and what is God's part? I AM SO CONFUSED!

Many men have lived as though there were not a sovereign God reigning over all, exalting themselves to their own ruin.

God, because he is sovereign, has a way of capturing wayward hearts, and guiding them into the truth.

Daniel 4:34-36 ³⁴“But at the end of that period, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever; For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom *endures* from generation to generation. ³⁵“All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, But He does according to His will in the host of heaven And *among* the inhabitants of earth; And no one can ward off His hand Or say to Him, ‘What have You done?’ ³⁶At that time my reason returned to me. And my majesty and splendor were restored to me for the glory of my kingdom, and my counselors and my nobles began seeking me out; so I was reestablished in my sovereignty, and surpassing greatness was added to me.

Psalms 103:19 ¹⁹The Lord has established His throne in the heavens, And His sovereignty rules over all.

Men have also lived as though God's sovereignty was everything, neglecting God-given responsibilities to their own ruin.

This attitude is normally accompanied by a selective hypocrisy, appealing to sovereignty only to escape responsibility. Hezekiah story- sick and praying for blessing; sinning and refusing to repent because God has spoken

Without the sovereignty of God, the Bible will be confusing, knowledge of God will be crippled, worship will be shallow, and our ability to process life accurately will be hindered.

Without embracing human agency, we will not be faithful to God on a level commensurate with our accountability to God.

How can both be true? If God is totally sovereign, I can't have total free agency in my own life. This statement is True!

If I am not totally free, how can God hold me responsible?

Romans 9:19-21 ¹⁹You will say to me then, “Why does He still find fault? For who resists His will?” ²⁰On the contrary, who are you, O man, who answers back to God? The thing molded will not say to the molder, “Why did you make me like this,” will it?

2 Peter 1:3 ³seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.

Here is the consistent message of Scripture: God is totally sovereign, and I am totally accountable for all things God has entrusted to me or asked of me.

When we challenge God on this matter, we are simply meddling in His business. He owes us no explanation.

I will trust God to tend to His business (working ALL THINGS together), and I will tend to mine (stewarding the things placed in my care.) In this way, I will be found faithful in all things.

The doctrine: God, in his sovereignty, has apportioned to man a measure of liberty for which he is accountable to God.

Psalm 131:1-3 O Lord, my heart is not proud, nor my eyes haughty; Nor do I involve myself in great matters, Or in things too difficult for me. ²Surely I have composed and quieted my soul; Like a weaned child *rests* against his mother, My soul is like a weaned child within me. ³O Israel, hope in the Lord From this time forth and forever

Faith is the basis of our relationship with God, not understanding. Where understanding fails, faith prevails!