SHORT ANSWERS JUBSINONS

OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH



3 TESTS OF CANONICITY

1. APOSTOLIC Origin

2. DOCTRINAL Soundness

3. Wide ACCEPTANCE by the Church

Big Questions

- Week 1: How do I know God exists and created all things?
- Week 2: Who is Jesus and why is He the only Way to God?
- Week 3: How do I know the Bible is the inspired, trustworthy Word of God?
- Week 4: How does man's free will and God's sovereignty coexist?
- Week 5: If God is good, why is there sin and suffering in the world?
- Week 6: What does God's Word say about current social issues?
- Week 7: What does it look like for me to be salt and light in the world?
- Week 8: How do I communicate the Gospel to people far from God?

Movement Statement of Faith

Christian & Missionary Alliance

C&MA does not provide a
Statement of Faith,
Position Statement, or
Perspective on
God's Sovereignty & Man's Freedom

God's Sovereignty

Right of God to create and rule with supreme power and authority independent of human intervention.

Psalm 103:19, Psalm 115:3, 2 Chronicles 20:6, Colossians 1:17

Key Points of God's Sovereignty

God has Unlimited Freedom

God has Supreme Power and Authority
Over All Creation

What God Created was Good.

Psalm 103:19, Psalm 115:3, 2 Chronicles 20:6, Colossians 1:17

Man's Freedom

Man's free will is the freedom of self-determination and action, Free of divine coercion.

Man's freedom is limited by the God's sovereignty.

Galatians 5:16-17, Romans 6:16

Key Points of Man's Freedom

God's Sovereignty is the Origin of Man's Freedom

Man's Freedom is Limited by God's sovereignty

Human Freedom is not to be Confused with Autonomy

Man's Sinful Nature and the Work of the Holy Spirit are in Conflict

Human Freedom is Free of Divine Coercion

Galatians 5:16-17, Romans 6:16

What God Decrees

God's Sovereignty
(Supreme Power & Authority)

Man's Freedom (Limited Freedom)

What God Permits

God Purposes

"For I have made them for my glory.

It was I who created them."

Isaiah 43:7 (NLT)

God Decrees

"Then God said, 'Let there be ...'"

Genesis 1 (NLT)

God Permits

"But the Lord God warned him,
'You may freely eat the fruit of every tree
in the garden— except the tree of the
knowledge of good and evil.
If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die."

Genesis 2:16-17 (NLT)

Example: Joseph

God Purposes

To rescue the nation of Israel from famine

"It was God who sent me here, not you! And he is the one who made me an adviser to Pharaoh."

Gen 45:8 (NLT)

"You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good."

Gen 50:20 (NLT)

Example: Joseph

God Permits

Jacob's favoritism

Joseph's sale into slavery

Potiphar's false accusations

Joseph's incarceration

God's Purpose for Man

God wants to conform us
to the moral image of Christ
through a process of transformation
so that we will choose
to obey and glorify him.

Isaiah 43:7, 1 Thessalonians 4:7, Romans 8:28-29, Psalm 37:23



Freedom / Sovereignty Why Pray?

Our desires always direct our choices!

Psalm 37:4; Psalm 139:23; Phil. 2:13

Freedom / Sovereignty Why Pray?

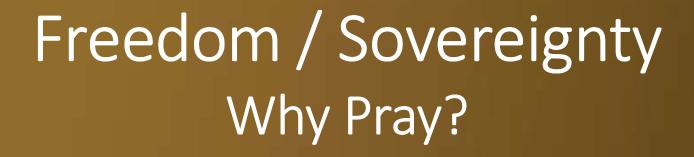
Prayer is two-way communication.

We hear God's voice when

we talk with him, not at him.

Freedom / Sovereignty Why Pray?

- God has told us to.
- Jesus modeled the pattern.
- Prayer helps us align ourselves with God's purposes.
- Prayer changes us!



Prayer is not

overcoming God's reluctance

but

laying hold of his willingness.

Martin Luther

Freedom / Sovereignty Does Prayer Change God's Mind?

- 1. The mind of God does not and cannot change. Mal 3:6; James 1:17
- 2. All things—good and evil—are included in his plans and purposes. No one frustrates his plans. Eph 1:11
- 3. God is all-knowing. No one informs Him. Ps. 115:3

Freedom / Sovereignty Does Prayer Change God's Mind?

- 1. Prayer is primarily for our sake.
- 2. Prayer acknowledges our dependence on Him.
- 3. Prayer acknowledges God's sufficiency.

Freedom / Sovereignty What About Pharaoh? Exodus 4-11

- Both God and Pharaoh bring about the hardening of his heart.
- God is not the author of evil. He does not force us to do evil.
- God can and does use it for His own good purposes.

Freedom / Sovereignty Does God cause people to sin?

"And remember when you are being tempted, do not say, 'God is tempting me.' God is never tempted to do wrong, and he never tempts anyone else."

James 1:13; Romans 8:28

God is sovereign

We have limited freedom

We are responsible

Romans 9:17-23

It's precisely
the sovereignty of God
that allows for our freedom.

Os Guiness

Know....

Believe....

Trust

2 Cor. 5:7; 1 John 3:2

