

The Will of God

The “*will of God*” in common usage refers to what God desires of an individual in a particular situation. This is not how “*will*” is used when discussing the decrees. In that context “*will*” means the decision God made in eternity past, from divine sovereignty, which established that certain things would occur while other things would not.

The decrees of God are His eternal and immutable will regarding the future existence of events which happen in time, and the precise manner and order of their occurrence.

Although in eternity past God decreed all the events of human history to be certain, this should not cause you to conclude that knowledge of doctrine is superfluous. It is important to remember this:

Principle: In human history the sovereignty of God and the free will of man must coexist by divine decree.

The will of God expresses divine policy toward the human race which is designed to guide and lead the believer to ultimate glorification. Divine policy is expressed by means of imperative moods which outline God’s desire for human thought, decision, and action.

These mandates communicate divine standards which find their source in divine righteousness. Therefore, the will of God is the expression of divine integrity. Righteousness is the principle of divine integrity while justice is the function of divine integrity.

Man cannot be expected to function under the policies of divine integrity unless he is made knowledgeable of their content. Therefore, the will of God is revealed in the pages of Scripture.

In eternity past God established His will for the human race and placed that policy in the ROM chip of the computer of divine decrees. The decrees certify divine desire and divine policy for the human race. The decrees also include on a PROM chip all the thoughts, decisions, and actions of every member of the human race.

Therefore, the ROM chip is etched at the factory, i.e., the righteousness of God and thus cannot be changed or altered and is therefore absolute policy. However, the PROM chip may be programmed once but after that not altered, indicating human free will. This recognizes human volition and the contingency that it may choose to violate established policy.

All things are rendered certain in the decrees including God’s will and man’s adjustment to it. It is God’s desire that his perfect will be done but because of volition man can choose not to do so.

The will of God can be classified in several ways:

- a. The directive will of God is expressed by direct commands and if followed reveals God’s plan for your life.
- b. The preventative will of God in which God makes doctrine, the laws of divine establishment, and divine discipline available to serve as goads to human volition.
- c. The overruling will of God in which Jesus Christ controls history on behalf of the Pivot.
- d. The permissive will of God permits human volition to choose in opposition to divine will, but in such a case, justice imposes discipline.

Therefore, the will of God is the expression of divine policy. The divine decrees recognize the historicity of both divine and human volition. Divine guidance is therefore based on knowledge of divine will combined with the volitional decision to apply it to life and circumstances. In this way human decisions line up with divine will and result in divine guidance.