

Confusion Over Election

Romans 8:28-33 & Romans 9:18-22

Introduction

Definition:

Election is the act of God whereby in eternity past He chose those who will be saved. God who determines the ends, designs also the means.

God's glory is at stake in election, that no flesh will ever glory in his presence.

- 1. God is Complicated** - (ie) take off you watch dismantle it and put it back together
?? Isaiah 55:8-9 Ways are not our ways, thoughts are not our thots
?? Romans 11: 33-35 Oh, the depth of riches of wisdom and knowledge of God, unsearchable and his ways past finding out.

2. God is a Paradox - apparent contradiction but is true

- ?? I Tim 2:4 - who will have all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth
?? 2 Peter 3:9 - He is not willing that any should perish but all should come to repentance.
Paradox: True Statements but appear contradictions "This statement is false" or "I always lie."
Oxymoron= Microsoft Works, Jumbo Shrimp, Pretty Ugly, Plastic Glasses

3. God is Confusing - he is not a man

- ?? **Permissive Will** - God decides not to act, rescue, intervene for his own purpose
?? **Determined Will** - God decides because someone needs to.

4. God is not God of Chance

God is not the God of chance. He does not throw his world out there to "chance" mutations. There is no luck with God - else no one would be saved. Or its a lottery.

17% of time throw doubles. Once each time around board (every 5 throws).
Red and orange are landed on the most.
The odds are stacked against you.

Confusion About Election

- 1. What About My Free Will?** – 2 Cor. 4:4 god of world blinded minds (Eph 2:1-3)
- 2. What About "Whosoever Will?"** – many are called, few are chosen
- 3. What About Fairness of God?** – No one who wants to be saved will be turned away.
- 4. What About the Heathen?** – No one who wants to be saved will be turned away.

I. What About My Free Will ?

Election is the act of God whereby He chooses us before we choose him.

He chooses us before we choose him so that no flesh will glory in his presence.

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?? 2 Corinthians 4:4 - God of this world has blinded the minds of them that believe not.

Where does my free will enter in?

(ie) Adam and Eve were the only humans to have a truly free will. It that free will that got all of us in trouble. Now it is depraved, fallen, spoiled, tainted, unholy through and through.

Where in scripture does God give us a FREE will? Only Adam and Eve were given truly untainted FREE wills to choose. The rest of us are already tainted, warped, ruined.

There is a danger in human nature wanting man to be the last word.

My will to be sacrosanct, or more important than God's right to choose.

You have free will or personal choice but no man will, unless the Father draw him.

Sovereignty of God - Pink

When addressing the unsaved, preachers often draw an analogy between God's sending of the Gospel to the sinner, and a sick man in bed, with some healing medicine on a table by his side: all he needs to do is reach forth his hand and take it. But in order for this illustration to be in any wise true to the picture which Scripture gives us of the fallen and depraved sinner, the sick man in bed must be described as one who is blind (Eph. 4:18) so that he cannot see the medicine, his hand paralyzed (Rom. 5:6) so that he is unable to reach forth for it, and his heart not only devoid of all confidence in the medicine but filled with hatred against the physician himself. (embellish a little - he is dead, paralyzed, deaf, blind, indifferent, antagonistic, doubtful, suspicious, paranoid, etc.)

II. What About Whosoever Will ?

If God elects who will be saved, is the invitation of Whosoever Will really true?

Does God choose some to be damned?

Does God harden Pharaoh's heart?

Does God really want everyone to be saved? Difference between “want” and “will”



?? Romans 9:15 "I will have mercy on whom **I have mercy**, and I will have **compassion** on whom I have compassion."

?? Romans 9:18. Therefore God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and **he hardens** whom he wants to harden.

?? Romans 9:22 What if God, choosing to show his wrath and make his power known, bore with great patience the **objects of his wrath -- prepared for destruction?**

?? Romans 9:23 And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the **vessels of** mercy, whom **he prepared in advance** for glory.

Whosoever Will May Come

Isaiah 55:1 – everyone who is thirsty

Isaiah 45:22 – Turn to me and be saved

Rev. 3:20 – I stand at door whoever

Rev. 22:17 – whosoever will may

Acts 17:30 – commands all to repent.

I Tim 2:4 – wants all men to be saved

2 Peter 3:9 – not willing any perish

John 3:16 – that whosoever will

But no man will, unless the Father draw him.

God Has Two Types of “Wills”

One is a want or desire the other a decree.

?? **Permissive Will** - God decides not to act, rescue, not to intervene for his own purpose.

? God does not do evil but he invented it like light and darkness, black and white. We need

? the contrast to understand. (ie) Tsunami Wave - thousands lost! But one saved.

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?? **Determined Will** - God decides because someone needs to. Christ to the cross. Judas was essential to the cause. Herod, Pilate, the rulers, soldiers all part of the determined will of God. See Acts 2, and Acts 4

III. What About the Fairness of God?

Romans 9:19-24

Do you want God to be fair? Fair means "just." Justice of God is to destroy all evil doers. Justice is to get what you deserve. Mercy is to get what you do not deserve.

(ie) Children at home always comparing one to another. NO FAIR!

Is God fair in saving some?

(ie) Who lives or dies in the case of a mother giving birth with complications? One or the other. It cannot be both. One must die that the other may live. This is a paradox.

(ie) Can God do anything? Can God make a rock so large it cannot be moved? Then he wouldn't be able to move the rock therefore not able to do everything.

Is God unjust to save some, but not all?

My friend don't worry about God's fairness. He invented integrity, and justice. God the judge of the earth will do right. He can do no wrong. It is not in his character.

(ie) An ant hill with millions of ants. Scoop up a handful before the fumigator arrives. Is that fair? Unfair? To whom? Who decides?

(ie) The star fish story. - Cannot save them all but I will save one! Is that not fair?

Does God have the right to chose?

If not, who took away his right? Who has the right? On what grounds? How do you know that? Can God choose how to run his world, how things will work? Gravity, science, etc?

Does God have the right to chose one and not another?

Jacob and Esau - before they did good or evil God chose one to love, other to hate.

Objections

Romans 9:19. One of you will say to me: "Then why does God still blame us? For who resists his will?" 20. But who are you, O man, to talk back to God? "Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, `Why did you make me like this?'" 21. Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for noble purposes and some for common use? 22. What if God, choosing to show his wrath and make his power known, bore with great patience the objects of his wrath-- prepared for destruction? 23. What if he did this to make the riches of his glory known to the objects of his mercy, whom he prepared in advance for glory -- 24. even us, whom he also called, not only from the Jews but also from the Gentiles?

IV. What About The Heathen?

*How will they be judged if they did nothing more than what God elected them to?
What about the pagans who never heard?*

(ie) Don Richardson, author of Peace Child, has researched primitive tribal peoples and found inevitably when a people turn to the Creator God and away from their idols God sends a messenger with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Romans 1 – They are without excuse. Worshipped creature more than Creator.
For when they knew God they glorified him not as God but became unthankful. Changing the image of God into animals and images of created things.

Romans 10 – Have they not all heard?

13. for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." 14. How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? 15. And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" **20. And Isaiah boldly says, "I was found by those who did not seek me; I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me."**

Conclusion

The conclusion of the matter is not about theology. It is about obedience.

Have you heard His Voice?

Have you heard His invitation?

Have you responded to His call?

Today, if you hear his voice, harden not your heart. He is calling you!

The Starfish Story - Is it fair to save one?

Once a man was walking along a beach. The sun was shining and it was a beautiful day. Off in the distance he could see a person going back and forth between the surf's edge and the beach. Back and forth this person went. As the man approached he could see that there were hundreds of starfish stranded on the sand as the result of the natural action of the tide.

The man was stuck by the the apparent futility of the task. There were far too many starfish. Many of them were sure to perish. As he approached the person continued the task of picking up starfish one by one and throwing them into the surf.

As he came up to the person he said, "You must be crazy. There are thousands of miles of beach covered with starfish. You can't possibly make a difference." The person looked at the man. He then stooped down and pick up one more starfish and threw it back into the ocean. He turned back to the man and said, "It sure made a difference to that one!"

The Heathen?

What will happen to those who never hear about Jesus?

Genesis 18:25 Shall not the Judge of all the earth [do right](#)?

Although the Bible does not give us the complete answer to this question, it does tell us that God "will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity (or fairness)" (Psalm 98:9). God will not condemn a person for rejecting a Christ they never heard about. However, we already stand condemned for something far more basic.

God has revealed Himself to everyone through the creation around us and the sense of right and wrong inside us. Each person knows enough about God that He says we are "without excuse" (Romans 1:20). It is for this suppression, distortion and rejection of the true knowledge of God and for the accompanying violation of God's laws that we stand condemned. Only by casting oneself completely on the mercy of God, and not counting on any of one's deeds -- religious or otherwise -- for right standing with God, can anyone possibly be saved.

OXYMORONS – Top 20 List:

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| 20. Government Organization | A Fine Mess |
| 19. Alone Together | |
| 18. Personal Computer | A just war |
| 17. Silent Scream | |
| 16. <u>Living Dead</u> | A little big |

15. Same Difference
 14. Taped Live
 13. Plastic Glasses
 12. Tight Slacks
 11. Peace Force
 10. Pretty Ugly
 9. Head Butt
 8. Working Vacation
 7. Tax Return
 6. Virtual Reality
 5. Dodge Ram
 4. Work Party
 3. Jumbo Shrimp
 2. Healthy Tan
 1. Microsoft Works
- a little pregnant
- absolutely unsure
- accurate estimate