

Are There Two Wills in God?

1 Timothy 2:3-4- This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

2 Peter 3:9- The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance

Ezekiel 18:23- "Do I have any pleasure in the death of the wicked," declares the Lord God, "rather that he should turn from his ways and live.

Illustration of two wills in God.

1) The death of Christ

- a) Acts 2:22-23
- b) Acts 4:27-28
- c) Isaiah 53:4-10

2) The war against the Lamb and the man of lawlessness

- a) Revelation 17:16-17
- b) 2 Thessalonians 2:8-13

3) The hardening Work of God

- a) Hardening of Pharaohs heart- Exodus 8:1....Exodus 4:21
- b) Sihon the King of Heshbon- Deuteronomy 2:30
- c) Cities Joshua fought- Joshua 11:19-20
- d) Nation of Israel - Romans 11:7-9
- e) Jesus' Parables- Mark 4:11-12
- f) Divine Hardening as part of overarching plan involving Jews and Gentiles- Romans 11:25-26
- g) Esau- Hebrews 12:16-17 - *Let there be no immoral or godless person like Esau, who sold his own birthright for a single meal. For you know that even afterwards, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, and furthermore found no place for repentance though he sought it with tears.*

4) God's right to restrain evil and His will not to.

- a) Proverbs 21:1
- b) Abraham, Sarah and Abimelech - Genesis 20:6-*kept you from sinning against me.*
- c) Eli's sons- 1 Samuel 2:22-25-*for the Lord desired to put them to death.*
- d) Romans 1: 22-28- three times he doesn't prevent , but turns over

So What is Happening Here?

Either

1) There is something more powerful than God in the universe

or

2) There is a greater will in God that supersedes His desire that all Men repent and be saved

What's the greater will and why do I believe it?

The greater will is His glory.

Why?

- 1) Romans 4:20-21- Concerning Abraham- *but he grew strong in his faith, giving glory to God*
- 2) Ezekiel 20:5-9- Why God did not destroy Israel in the desert
- 3) Psalm 106:6-8- *Yet He saved them for His names sake, that He might make known His mighty power*
- 4) Exodus 14:4, 18 - Pharaoh's heart being hardened
- 5) 1 Samuel 12:19-23- The beginning of the monarchy
- 6) Psalm 25:11-*For thy name's sake, O Lord pardon my guilt for it is great*
- 7) Psalm 23:3- *He leads me in paths of righteousness for HIS name's sake*
- 8) 1 Kings 8:41-45- Solomon's dedication of the temple
- 9) 2 Samuel 7:23- Why Israel was great
- 10) Isaiah 48:9-11 - Why God did not destroy Israel
- 11) Malachi 2:2 -*They do not lay it to heart to give glory to my name!*
- 12) John 17:4, 7:18,4:34- Jesus' life and ministry
- 13) John 12:27-28- Jesus' death
- 14) Ephesians 1: 3-6- why we are saved - *to the praise of His glorious grace.*
- 15) 1 Corinthians 10:31, 1 Peter 4:11, Matthew 5:16- The Christian life
- 16) 2 Thessalonians 1:9-10- The second coming
- 17) Revelation 21:23 - The consummation.

We may conclude that the chief end of God is to glorify God and enjoy himself forever. He stands as supreme at the center of His own affections. For that very reason He is a self sufficient and inexhaustible fountain of Grace!

Conclusion:

1) **Justification**

- a) This is an act of God and God alone.
- b) Romans 9: 6-24
- c) John 6:44- *No one comes to me unless the Father who sent me draws him.*
- d) Ephesians 1: 3-6
- e) Ephesians 2:1-10
- f) Romans 8:28-30

2) **Sanctification**

- a) A progressive work of God **AND** man that makes us more and more free from sin and more like Christ in our actual lives. This too ties back to the grace of God.
- b) Hebrews 6:1-4
- c) Philippians 1:6

What is the fruit of believing this?

- 1) These truths make me exalt Him as the author and sustainer of ALL things and inspire awe, reverence and genuine worship.
- 2) These truths make me desperate.
- 3) These truths make me confident that the work which God planned and began, He will finish both personally and globally
- 4) These truths help me see everything in light of God's sovereign purposes - that from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.
- 5) These truths make me hopeful that God has the will, the right, and the power to answer prayer that people be changed.
- 6) These truths remind me that evangelism is absolutely essential for people to come to Christ and be saved, and that there is great hope for success in leading people to faith, but that conversion is not finally dependent on me or limited by the hardness of the unbeliever.
- 7) These truths make me sure God will triumph in the end!

Isaiah 46: 9-10 - *I am God and there is no other. I am God and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things not done, saying, "My counsel will stand that I will accomplish all my purposes"*

Psalms 115:3- *For our God is in the heavens. He does whatever pleases Him.*

Daniel 4:34-35 *His dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom endures from generation to generation; all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing; and He does according to His will among the inhabitants of the earth and none can stay His hand or say to Him, "What are you doing?"*