



Understanding God's Will



Two “levels” of God’s will

1. Decreed / Perfect will
2. Desired / Permissive will

Two “levels” of God’s will

1. Decreed / Perfect will

- **eternal will** – cannot be changed or thwarted
- **moral will**; ethics, commands – based on God’s character so cannot be changed
- **predestination, foreordination** – what God has decided in advance that will occur

Two “levels” of God’s will

1. Decreed / Perfect will

- Acts 2:32; 4:27-28
- 1 Corinthians 2:6-8
- Ephesians 1:4-11
- Hebrews 6:13-18
- Hebrews 2:4; 1 Corinthians 12:11

Two major doctrines

2. Desired / Permissive will

- Doctrine of omniscience
- Problem of evil

Doctrine of omniscience

- Omniscience is more than just “knowing everything”
- God knows both reality and possibility
 - “Open theism” – God knows the past but the future only as possibility until after we’ve made our decisions
 - **Matthew 11:20-24**

The Problem of Evil

- Since evil exists, God cannot be both good and powerful
 - Good but unable to do anything about it
 - Able to correct it but not a good God
- Another option: **the power of contrary choice**

Two “levels” of God’s will

2. Desired / Permissive will

- things that may or may not happen
- concessions, regulations (divorce)

Two “levels” of God’s will


2. Desired / Permissive will

- things that are not morally significant (most of our daily decisions)
- things that are significant but don’t affect his Perfect will (jobs, marriages, education)

Two “levels” of God’s will

2. Desired / Permissive will

- sin, rejection of the gospel
- **1 Timothy 2:1-4**
- **2 Peter 3:9**



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