

Doctrine of Truth and Determinism

1. One of the greatest statements Jesus ever made was that truth was something that could be known and once known, it makes a person free.
 - *John 8:32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*

2. The debate on free will must confront two fronts.
 - How can the will of man be free and God be sovereign?
 - How is our free will to be understood in light of the doctrine of original sin? To what extent has the Fall affected man's free will?

3. The doctrine of original sin concerns itself, not with the original act of Adam, but the consequences of the Fall and the result of his original sin. Is a corrupt human nature something that is inherited in the act of procreation? Is humanity not a fallen race?

4. There are various theories of determinism.
 - A naturalistic determinism denies any reality to a human free will. This is known as fatalism based on the mythology of The Fates. Those who believe in the Zodiac are caught up on believing in what Fate has in store for them.
 - A mechanistic view of determinism views the world, and man, like a machine. Man is the victim of bio chemical reactions in the body, or on the determining influence on society around us. One practical result of this is that murder can be viewed as something other than a crime because people are not responsible for their behavior and impulses.

Rather, individuals are the victim of the passions of the moment. Not guilty by reason of temporary insanity. People must act out the influences of their home and society. To punish someone for a crime is to hold them responsible and to assume they do have responsibility.

The book, *Beyond Freedom and Dignity*, B. F. Skinner said we are the next result of our atoms and we have to give up the dignity of thinking we have some determining influence on our lives. Free will is an illusion. We are the victim of impersonal forces and have no significance.
 - A chance view of determinism. But of course, chance has no power because it has no being.

5. The Biblical view of determinism is grounded in the will of God.
 - Ephesians 1:11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

6. There are two facets of the will of God.

- God's revealed will. *Hebrews 1:1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds.*
- God's secret will. *Deuteronomy 29:29 The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.*