

THE WILL OF GOD: THE **ONE** IN **THREE**

John 16:1 These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended. **John 16:2** They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, **that** whosoever killeth you **will think that he doeth God service** (λατρείαν προσφέρειν τῷ θεῷ). **John 16:3** And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me.

The will of God...what is it?

For many people the will of God is mostly about success, happiness, emotions, fun, pleasure, fulfillment, excitement, ease, easy choices, what I always wanted to do, where I always wanted to do it, with whom I always wanted to do it...**and CALL IT THE WILL OF GOD!**

There is only one will of God experienced in 3 ways (not in any specific order):

1. The **moral** will of God → to be obeyed

Matthew 12:50 For whosoever shall do **the will of my Father** which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

Mark 3:35 For whosoever shall do **the will of God**, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother.

1 Thessalonians 4:3 For **this is the will of God**, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:

1 Thessalonians 5:18 In every thing give thanks: **for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.**

1 Peter 4:2 That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, **but to the will of God.**

1 John 2:17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: **but he that doeth the will of God** abideth for ever.

This is the simplest aspect of the will of God to understand:

- The will of God = the Word of God
- God commands what He wills, and wills what He commands
- It is written & **that's** God will:

For all people

In all places

At all times

- Not hard to understand – often hard to do

Pastor, I always wanted to live _____ & wanted to do _____!

OK, not necessarily bad...

But regardless of the where & the what → God is **100% more interested** in how we live

2. The **sovereign** will of God → to be embraced / accepted

(submitted to)

This is so important but often times hard to accept / embrace:

- God makes choices
- Choices that are not our choices
- Choices we don't necessarily like
- Choices we wouldn't make
- Choices we can't change
- Choices both direct & indirect
- Choices both simple & complex

1 Peter 2:15 For **so is the will of God**, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men:

1 Peter 3:17 For it is better, **if the will of God be so**, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing.

1 Peter 4:19 Wherefore let them that suffer according to **the will of God** commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.

Luke 22:41 And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed, **Luke 22:42** Saying, **Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.**

➤ **God's choices should be our starting point!**

We want God's will!

We submit to God's will!

We accept God's will!

We embrace God's will!

DEO VOLENTE!

James 4:15 For that **ye ought to say, If the Lord will**, we shall live, and do this, or that.

Acts 21:14 And when he would not be persuaded, we ceased, saying, **The will of the Lord be done.**

3. The personal will of God → to be followed

Acts 13:36 For David, after he had served his own generation **by the will of God**, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption:

The personal will of God is all & only about:

- **Serving**
- **Serving people**
- **Serving at a particular time & place**
- **Serving God by serving people**

Since the 1970s this entire concept has come under attack:

- **Will of God = what I already wanted to do**
- **Will of God is always about how I feel**
- **Will of conflicts with the Word of God**
- **Discerning God's will is always about the emotions**

Romans 15:32 That I may come unto you with joy **by the will of God**, and may with you be refreshed.

1 Corinthians 1:1 PAUL, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ **through the will of God**, and Sosthenes our brother,

2 Corinthians 1:1 PAUL, an apostle of Jesus Christ **by the will of God**, and Timothy our brother, unto the church of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints which are in all Achaia:

Ephesians 1:1 PAUL, an apostle of Jesus Christ **by the will of God**, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus:

Colossians 1:1 PAUL, an apostle of Jesus Christ **by the will of God**, and Timotheus our brother,

2 Timothy 1:1 PAUL, an apostle of Jesus Christ **by the will of God**, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus,

REMEMBER: There is only one will of God **experienced in three different ways!**