

F R E E W I L L ?

Lesson 6

What About Free Will?

Does the Bible actually teach that man has a free will?

1 Thessalonians 5:21 But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good;

1 Corinthians 4:6 Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively applied to myself and Apollos for your sakes, so that in us you may learn not to exceed what is written, so that no one of you will become arrogant in behalf of one against the other.

2 Corinthians 10:5 We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,

There are two levels or meaning or understanding:

We are free to make _____.

Norman Geisler "When Skeptics Ask"

"the ability to decide between alternatives made by the individual rather than by an _____.

A. We are _____ for our decisions.

**B. We accept the _____ for
our decisions.**

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Freedom of choice from Genesis 2

1. God created man with the _____ and _____ to choose.

Genesis 2:15–17 Then the Lord God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it. 16 The Lord God commanded the man, saying, “From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; 17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.”

- In the state of perfection, Adam and Eve were given the freedom to choose between obedience and disobedience.
- Their will was as free as free will gets.

Were they affected by an outside force? ... _____

Adam and Eve were influenced by God in three ways:

1. As Creator, God is sovereign over _____, including our choices.

Proverbs 16:9 The mind of man plans his way,
But the Lord directs his steps.

Proverbs 21:1 The king’s heart is like channels of water in the hand of the Lord; He turns it wherever He wishes.

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Jeremiah 10:23 I know, O Lord, that a man's way is not in himself, Nor is it in a man who walks to direct his steps.

Jeremiah 1:5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, And before you were born I consecrated you; I have appointed you a prophet to the nations."

Acts 17:28 for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we also are His children.'

2. God _____ their choices

3. He determined the _____ of those choices.

God gives us freedom to make choices, but the _____ of God and complete human _____ cannot coexist.

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What took place as a result of their choice?

Genesis 3:6 When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.

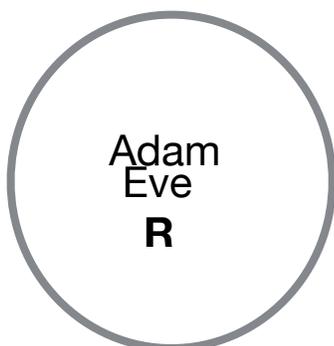
Adam and Eve died in two ways

1. Physical death was set in motion.
2. They died SPIRITUALLY.

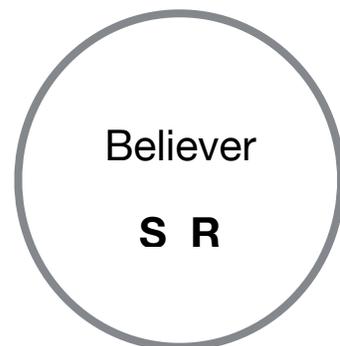
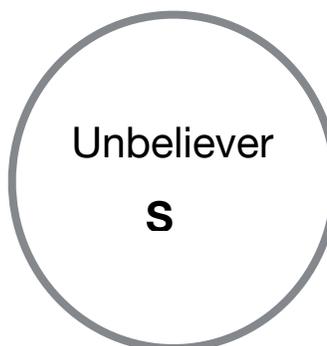
They lost the full freedom of their will.

Due to the fall, Adam & Eve were now in bondage to sin and no longer had the freedom to choose

Before the Fall



After the Fall



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So what does this teach us about the human will?

Human desire and its consequential choices are limited by our _____.

The limitations set by our nature are illustrated by Jesus Himself.

Matthew 7:15–20 “Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. 16 “You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they?

17 “So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit.

An unbeliever’s will is bound or limited by their

_____.

Ephesians 2:1–3 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, 2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. 3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

1. Unbelievers have no choice but to walk in spiritual deadness.

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2. Unbelievers have no choice to be out from under the influence of culture.
3. Unbelievers cannot remove themselves from functioning under Satan's power.
4. Unbelievers live in a spirit of disobedience to the things of God.

An unbeliever's will cannot _____ God.

Romans 3:10–11 as it is written, “There is none righteous, not even one; 11 There is none who understands, **There is none who seeks for God;**

John 6:44 No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.

An unbeliever's will cannot _____ itself to God.

Romans 8:7–8 because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, 8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

What about the believer?

John 8:31–32 So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”

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In salvation, our will is released from being totally dominated by sin and we are freed to make choices that are consistent with _____.

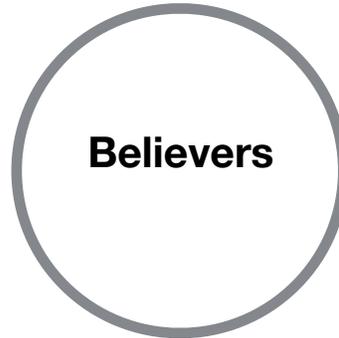
Even a believer's will isn't completely free.

Romans 7:14–21 For we know that the Law is spiritual, but I am of flesh, sold into bondage to sin. 15 For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate. 16 But if I do the very thing I do not want to do, I agree with the Law, confessing that the Law is good. 17 So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me. 18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not. 19 For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want. 20 But if I am doing the very thing I do not want, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me. 21 I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good.

Romans 6:16–18 Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness? 17 But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, 18 and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

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Under **SATAN'S** power Under the **LORDSHIP** of Christ



In summary:

We were created with the freedom of choice, but our will is not independently free from the one who _____ us.

ANSWERS: Choices, outside force, responsible, consequences, ability, responsibility, Yes, everything, limited, consequences, sovereignty, autonomy, righteousness, nature, sin nature, desire, submit, God's will, owns