



General Topics :: Free will , to do good or bad?

Free will , to do good or bad? - posted by Greenquality, on: 2006/3/5 7:18

During.. and.. after the garden of Eden,In the state of sin and apart from God. Does man have a will?????.of in his own... and if so, is it free to do good or bad??? This has been on my mind in a heavy way.

Re: Free will , to do good or bad? - posted by JaySaved, on: 2006/3/5 8:25

Quote:
 -----During.. and.. after the garden of Eden,In the state of sin and apart from God. Does man have a will?????.of in his own...and if so, is it free to do good or bad??? This has been on my mind in a heavy way.

I have been praying and studying this as well. While in Romans I came across chapter 8 verse 5: "Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires."

So, God is telling us that non-Christians live according to their own sinful pleasures.

Continuing in verse 5, "but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires." In other words, those who believe in Christ, live for Christ and what pleases Christ

Verse 6, "The mind of sinful man is death , but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace ;

Verse 7-8, "the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God."

So, the way I see it is this. Man has free will before he is a Christian but it is his will to sin .

Re: - posted by Greenquality, on: 2006/3/5 11:47

Thank you js,now I got the motor running,sort of speak.So man had free will in the garden.... after eating the bad tree,no w the phrase their eye's opened,what does that mean?,is it the soul??, carnal knowledge mind??, or self-centered-ness apart from God??,or is it guilt knowing of wrong doing?????.I know this is a deep subject, I thank you for any help!

Re: Free will to do good or bad?, on: 2006/3/6 10:45

I think this is a helpful passage, too:

(KJV) Ephesians 2

- 1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;
- 2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:
- 3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, **fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind**; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

I've kept the KJV because I'm familiar with it and it speaks clearly to me.

The 'hath he quickened' I underlined; I do realise is not in the original (when it's in brackets) but, it brings up the matter of **GOD'S WILL**, which was able to come to our rescue. This is a useful backdrop to considering our own will, which is no less powerful, if we direct it aright.

That we can direct it, is clear from 1 Cor 14:32

32 And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. (NKJV)

In other words, our will is subject to our mind - our mental choice and our deepest heart choice.

This is borne out by Mark's account of Jesus's arrival in the land of the Gadarenes:

(NKJV) Mark 5

1 Then they came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gadarenes.

2 And when He had come out of the boat, **immediately there met Him** out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit,
3 who had dwelling among the tombs; and no one could bind him, not even with chains,

4 because he had often been bound with shackles and chains. And the chains had been pulled apart by him, and the shackles broken in pieces; neither could anyone tame him.

5 And always, night and day, he was in the mountains and in the tombs, crying out and cutting himself with stones.

6 **When he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and worshipped Him.**

Returning to the verses above from Ephesians 2, I think 'children of wrath' refers to our attracting God's wrath for our bad behaviour. Later in the chapter, the 'wall of partition' was the Mosaic law, which separated the Hebrews from the Gentiles, the Law having been an attempt to provide a way for part of mankind to avoid God's wrath (by keeping His rules).

Romans 3:20(b)'.by the law the knowledge of sin.' This (trying to keep the Law) was a matter of 'will', just as 1 Timothy 1:9 says the Law is for the lawless..... that is, those who do not (willingly) bring their will under the authority of God's will

I find it interesting to note the spiritual point Paul makes in Eph 2:2. As with Legion, even the spirit of disobedience is subject to the will of person.

What do you think of this analysis?

Re: Free will , to do good or bad?, on: 2006/3/6 11:59

Free will , to do good or bad?

If it is not possible for any person to obey God after Adam's sin then someone please tell me how these people obeyed even before Christ was born

1 Kings 15:11 And Asa did that which was right in the eyes of the LORD, as did David his father.

2 Chronicles 14:2 And Asa did that which was good and right in the eyes of the LORD his God:

2 Chronicles 24:2 And Joash did that which was right in the sight of the LORD all the days of Jehoiada the priest.

Genesis 26:5 Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.

Joshua 22:2 And said unto them, Ye have kept all that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, and have obeyed my voice in all that I commanded you:

Haggai 1:12 Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, with all the remnant of the people, obeyed the voice of the LORD their God, and the words of Haggai the prophet, as the LORD their God had sent him, and the people did fear before the LORD.

Did Adam or his descendants lose the ability to obey God after Adam's sin?

No!! The Bible tells the story of many people, some who walked with God and did what was pleasing in His sight and others who rebelled against God and did evil in His sight. It would be impossible to rebel or obey without the freedom to do so.

Joshua 24:15 "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom you will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." KJV

Isaiah 1:19-20 "If you be willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land: but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD has spoken it." KJV

These passages prove that all of Adam's offspring still had the ability to obey or refuse God.

What about Enoch and others who really followed Gods commands? Again, it would not be possible to obey God if they did not have this ability.

Re: - posted by madmatg (), on: 2006/3/6 12:46

free cd:

in the old testament it talks alot about the spirit of the lord being on people. and I believe(as i would guess you do) that I will see David, Enoch, and the rest of the old testament christians in heaven, because of there faith in the messiah to come. my personal belief is that those pre-OAD Jews(Christians) are the same, basically(lived by faith not works, and were born again) as the post-OAD Christians(Jews) except as one was putting there faith in the messiah to come the other puts there faith in the messiah that has come. if this is blaspheming or heresy or the like, someone stop me and delete this post. again, i'm a new christian so this is not from a near comprehensive comprehension of the bible; just from what i've seen.

Re: - posted by Greenquality, on: 2006/3/6 15:24

The reason that I asked,some believe,after eating of the tree,man has lost his will,or that it is no longer free,that is why I want to know what does it mean when their((eYe's opened up??in the Garden.?))

Re: - posted by JaySaved, on: 2006/3/6 16:14

Quote:
----- If it is not possible for any person to obey God after Adam's sin then someone please tell me how these people obeyed even before Christ was born

It is possible for a person to obey God after Adam's sin because, if we couldn't, then we would all be condemned. The people you mentioned obeyed God before Christ was born because they had faith.

Hebrews 11:1-2 says, "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for."

So, we see that the OT saints were made righteous before God through their faith. The same faith that now saves us.

Hebrews 11:13-16 says, "All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth. People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them."

The OT saints did not personally receive the things promised but they welcomed them through faith. So the key is Faith.

Quote:
----- The reason that I asked,some believe,after eating of the tree,man has lost his will,or that it is no longer free,that is why I want to know what does it mean when their((eYe's opened up??in the Garden.?))

General Topics :: Free will , to do good or bad?

Romans 5:12-13 speaks of the this topic: "12Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned— 13for before the law was given, sin was in the world. But sin is not taken into account when there is no law.

Did man lose his free will when he ate of the tree? Not at all. Man still has his free will and can do whatever his will desires.

This is the main point. Man has free will. What is free will? It is the desire to do whatever your Will desires. Here is the problem, what does man desire? What does man's will want? Is it righteousness? Is it holiness? Is it selfishness? Is it to do 'whatever feels good'?

This goes back to what I wrote before:

Romans 8 verse 5: "Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires, but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires."

Verse 6, "The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace;

Verse 7-8, "the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God."

Man has a free will but because man is sinful he is also hostile to God and cannot submit to God's law. Why can't he submit to God's law? Because it is not in his 'Will' to do so. Remember these words, "Those controlled by the sinful nature (i.e., non-believers) CANNOT please God."

Now, I want to tie all this in. We see that the OT saints were made righteous through their faith. We also saw that those who are not Christians cannot please God because of their sinful nature.

So, how can a sinful man who cannot please God, please God? Through faith. But where does faith come from?

ROMANS 10:17 NKJ

17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Re: - posted by Greenquality, on: 2006/3/6 17:03

where this started i watched a.w pink.talk about the will of man,and how it is not free.that why i want know the meaning of (((There eye's opened up))?) because in the act of being opened they saw there naked -ness and became ashamed .to me this sounds like Guilt the act of knowing of wrong doing,2 fold?? what state was adam in before the eye's where opened? Is this the discovery of self -apart from God will??

Re: Free will , to do good or bad? - posted by Graftedbranc, on: 2006/3/13 11:48

Quote:
-----During.. and.. after the garden of Eden,In the state of sin and apart from God. Does man have a will????of in his own...and if so, is it free to do good or bad??? This has been on my mind in a heavy way.

I think the question is actually from the position of the fall. That is, the sin of Adam was in partaking of the tree of the Knowledge of good and evil.

Adam's sin was not in choosing bad over good, but rather in choosing the tree of the knowledge of Good and evil over the Tree of Life.

Adam chose an independant life of knowing good and evil rather than a life of dependance upon God as his indwelling Life.

Fallen men are very capable in choosing "good" over evil. We in our fallen state do indeed have the capacity to do some good as well as evil. But the good we do makes us self righteous. And the evil we do makes us sinners.

God's desire is for us to repent of the tree of the knowledge of both Good and evil and come to Him through the redemption in Christ, as the Tree of Life to receive Him as our indwelling Life forsaking an independent life of knowing good and evil and living by Him as our All.

Romans 7 shows us a man who desires the law of God in his mind (good) but finds the law of sin and death in his flesh. God's answer is not to strengthen the man in his good endeavours, but rather His answer is the Law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus.

Biblical repentance is not to turn from the branch of evil to the branch of good which is to remain in the same tree. Biblical repentance is to turn from an independent Life of both good and evil to a dependent Life of eating Christ, partaking of Him and living by Him as our indwelling Life.

The problem with Adam and Eve knowing they were naked was "behold, they have become as one of us, knowing good and evil". They had become independent little "gods" knowing good and evil. They knew good, and they knew evil, but they were separated from the Life of God and spiritually dead.

Our problem as Christians is that even though we have been born of God and have His life within us, we still try to live our Christian Life according to the knowledge of good and evil and not according to the Life of God in our spirit. Rather than concentrating on knowing God and experiencing Christ as our indwelling Life and living by the Spirit, we live by trying to determine what is right and wrong and try to do the "right" thing. Rather we should practice to call on the Lord continually, recognizing that Christ is within us and God's desire is not our righteousness, but rather that we should be vessels to contain, know, and express Christ as our righteousness, holiness, and our everything.

Graftedbranch

Re: - posted by rookie (), on: 2006/3/13 13:04

Brother JaySaved wrote:

Quote:
-----I have been praying and studying this as well. While in Romans I came across chapter 8 verse 5: "Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires."

So, God is telling us that non-Christians live according to their own sinful pleasures.

Paul is only teaching of those who have been born from above in chapter 8 of Romans.

11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

Rom. 8:12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—^{not} to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. 13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

All Christians have the same choice. In verse 13, "For if you live according to the flesh you will die..." We know that Paul teaches that all men are dead until one is born from above. So in verse 13, Paul identifies to whom he is teaching about. These people are alive and have the choice to continue in the flesh or to put to death the deeds of the flesh by following the Spirit.

In Christ
jeff

General Topics :: Free will , to do good or bad?

Re: - posted by rookie (), on: 2006/3/13 13:16

Brother Jaysaved wrote:

Quote:

-----ROMANS 10:17 NKJ

17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Thought out Scripture, the OT and the NT this has been the same.

John 10:27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

So it is by His voice that we know how to do what is good. Without His voice, we are under this law.

18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find.

The question is, "but how to perform what is good I do not find." It is only by hearing His voice do we know how to perform what is good.

In Christ

Jeff

Re: - posted by Greenquality, on: 2006/3/13 18:42

Now angel being created beings, do they have a free will? can they sin? what state was adam eye's before they where o pened??what I think and am trying to figure out,is sin... is it guilt of wrong doing??? or being set apart from God will and communion with Him?or just the act of disobeying. because most of the western chritains think we do not have free will! that we are inclind to sin regaurdless of the choices?

Re:, on: 2006/3/13 19:09

Quote:

-----my personal belief is that those pre-OAD Jews(christians) are the same, basically(lived by faith not by works, and were born agai0 a s the post-OAD christians(Jews)except as one was putting there faith in the messiah to come the other puts there faith in the messiah that has come.

I don't know about the born again part. I beleive the old testament saints went to a place in the heart of the earth called "paradise", and when Jesus finished the work on the cross he descended into the lowere parts of the earht and took the m with Him to heaven.Luke chapter 16:19-31 gives an account of this place. Also Matt 27:51-53 and I Cor 15:20 gives a n account of their ressurection.

Re: - posted by Eskimo, on: 2006/3/13 23:16

If we don't have free will, we cannot submit to God wholeheartedly.

Re: - posted by IRONMAN (), on: 2006/3/13 23:47

brethren

if the Lord leads, prayerfully read Romans chapter 9 and check out this discussion we had on this topic a few weeks bac k.

God bless

https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?topic_id=8646&forum=36&84

Re: - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2006/3/14 2:09

May I suggest you read the book of Romans and I John and for the time being quit reading any theological work? It appears to me they and other Christians are confusing you more than necessary. You can find many books, many people who will tell you anything....the devil uses such to confuse. Been there, done that...Get rooted and grounded in the Word, and then you can tackle these people/ideas.

I suggest you read the Bible as though it is God's personal letter just to you, because it really is!

ginnyrose

Re: - posted by Greenquality, on: 2006/3/14 11:29

Iron man ,after I read all the post on this subject,i would like to retract my thoughts.Just maybe there are some things we are not to understand,.....(this remind's me back in 2nd grade,.....when the local newspaper,came to are class,to take a picture.of one student,..... which are school took part in a fundraiser.which I for one had no clue..... they put all the students names in a big glass jar and mixed them up,a teacher from the other room randomly picked a name and read it out loud.... they called my name,i was so happy because I was never picked for anything,my joy was soon ended by a error on the teacher part,... so my name went back into the jar once again,By this time I was sad.so another teacher reached in to grab a name from that jar and read it out loud and it was my name again...my thoughts at this time was for sure.,that I would be in the picture ,for our school. I heard a preacher said this once....we look at games and give away s on back of boxes or bottles in small print it say's((((many shall enter,but few will win))))!

Re: - posted by rookie (), on: 2006/3/14 11:33

Brother Greenquality wrote:

Quote:
-----?what I think and am trying to figure out,is sin... is it guilt of wrong doing??? or being set apart from God will and communion with Him?or just the act of disobeying.

Sin is a result of not knowing how to love God and one another according to God's law. The law of God establishes the way He has determined that His creation should live. From the time of Adam and Eve's decision to live outside of what God had ordained for His creation until now, the generations of men have truly learned what it means to know both good and evil. The generations of man have suffered greatly due to the underlying precept that we do not know how to love God with our whole heart mind and soul and then love one another as God has established before the foundations of this world.

The separation from God is the result of Adam's sin. All generations have been subjected to this separation. By what means has God determined that man might be restored? It is by the law of faith. Where does faith find its source? It is God's voice. Those who obey what they hear learn from God day by day in the way they should walk. The ancient path will teach them how to love God and one another. And of course, there is the seed of Satan who continues to be heirs of his domain. So in the end of all things, one is either adopted into God's kingdom through the birth of the Spirit which gives you life in Christ. This life is a result of living by faith in Christ. Or one remains in the domain of Satan and in faith one obeys his father, Satan.

Sin is a manifestation of not knowing how to love God according to His law.

In Christ
Jeff

Re: - posted by IRONMAN (), on: 2006/3/14 13:48

bro Greenquality

Quote:
-----Iron man ,after I read all the post on this subject,i would like to retract my thoughts.Just maybe there are some things we are not to understand

i came to the same conclusion that the mechanics of predestination are beyond our comprehension. our perception of free will is based a lot on an anglo-american view of liberty which pretty much says we can do whatever, in truth we can do nothing outside of God's will. now it was said by C.S. Spurgeon that the 2 things, predetermination and free will (as per God's view) work hand in hand and the thing of it is that it'll only make sense on the other side. while we're here, some of us are called to be vessels of mercy and we should set about the work of being vessels of mercy. another theologian said that the doctrine of predestination when understood truly highlights the Lord's sovereignty in ALL things and that's the bottom line...off to be a vessel of mercy...