



What does the Calvinist mean when they say that God is sovereign over all things?

“By predestination, we mean the eternal decree of God by which He determined with Himself whatever He wished to happen with regard to every man. All are not created on equal terms, but some are preordained to eternal life, others to eternal damnation, and accordingly, as each has been created for one of the other of these ends, we say that he has been predestined to life or to death.” John Calvin

T
U
L
I
P

Sovereignty (according to the Calvinist) – God _____ everything that happens – often called _____

Sovereignty (according to the non-Calvinist) – God’s absolute right to do all things according to His _____ – to do what _____ Him

There is a huge difference between _____ and _____

What if God sovereignly “chose” to give man a free will & then gave him choice & dominion?

Interestingly, God was still _____ when Adam and Eve were innocent in Eden and had a _____ to _____ whether to obey or disobey God’s command.

Man having a free will does not give him _____ to _____ God's sovereignty.

God is _____ and _____ and is therefore _____ to every angel, faithful & fallen, and every human, lost & saved.

1. But if God determines everything, He not only determines who will be _____, He also determines _____.

The logical end of determinism would make God the _____ of evil/sin

2. Scripture teaches that God does not _____ nor _____ evil.

3. If determinism is true, God not only _____ what will happen, He _____ it to happen.

- If determinism is true, then everything we are is of _____ making
- Sinning Christians can look to _____ as the cause
- Terms like “humble yourself” & “repent” – make _____ if determinism is true
- God determines who will be a _____ and _____ Calvinist

4. Does the plain reading of Scripture depict God as one who determines everything people do and then holds them accountable for their actions?

5. Scripture teaches all men are _____ for their own sin

So, as I understand Scripture

God's being sovereign does not mean that He _____ and _____ everything that happens (meticulous divine determinism), but that He has the absolute right to do all things according to His own _____, but always does what is _____ and _____ with how Scripture portrays Him – “compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love” (Ps 103:8); the God for whom love is not merely an option or sovereign choice, but who is such that His eternal nature is love (1 Jn 4:8).

What are the consequences of interpreting sovereignty as meticulous divine determinism?

- It can cause some _____ to think they are determined by God to be lost and therefore, _____
- It is causing a generation of believers to become _____ and _____