

Cornerstone Bible Church

Systematic Theology

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Acknowledgment & Credits:

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LECTURES ON INTRODUCTION TO
SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY TAUGHT BY
RAFAEL ALCANTARA IN 2009 DURING THE
SUNDAY SCHOOL AT IGLESIA BIBLICA DEL
SEÑOR JESUCRISTO. MATERIAL ADDED AND
EXPANDED FOR THIS CLASS

THEOLOGY PROPER

General Contents:

1. The Existence of God
2. The Attributes of God
3. The Trinity
4. Creation
5. Providence

The Attributes of God

The Attributes of God

Enumeration:

- 1) The Aseity of God
- 2) The Eternity of God
- 3) The Immutability of God
- 4) The Omnipresence of God
- 5) The Unity of God
- 6) The Spirituality (Invisibility) of God
- 7) God's Omniscience
- 8) God's Wisdom
- 9) **The Sovereignty of God**

9. The Sovereignty of God

I - The double distinction of God's will

- a) Decretive
- b) Preceptive

II - The Sovereignty of God and its extension

- a) The good things
- b) Bad things
- c) Casual events
- d) The eternal destiny of human beings

III - The Sovereignty of God: objections

IV - The Sovereignty of God: applications

9. The Sovereignty of God

III - The Sovereignty of God: objections responded

1st. Objection: This doctrine makes God the author of sin

(James 1:13)

Answer: God cannot be the author of sin, since He hates sin. He is holy and consequently He abhors all forms of evil. At the same time, He included sin in His decree enabling its entrance into the world. In this, there lies a tension we must face. God even uses sin, to show His Goodness to us more abundantly.

9. The Sovereignty of God

III - The Sovereignty of God: objections responded

1st. Objection: This doctrine makes God the author of sin

Grudem on Acts 2:23: *“The secret will of God in decreeing and the deliberate villainy of the people are reiterated in the same declaration. Regardless of how we understand that the secret will of God is executed, we must never imply that we are free from guilt with respect to sin, nor that we can attribute guilt to God, with respect to it. The Bible never uses that form of speech nor should we, even when this continues being a mystery to us...”* (Ibíd. Pág. 97-98)

9. The Sovereignty of God

III - The Sovereignty of God: objections responded

2nd Objection: This doctrine makes God unjust.

Ro 9:14-16

Answer: The Sovereignty of God creates a tension with His justice but it takes place in our minds. God is Sovereign and at the same He is just. Some deal with the tension in a defying attitude while others do it in sincerity of heart trying to understand the mind of the Lord.

The apostle foresaw this objection while dealing with the subject, and he states that God is not unjust. The problem is that Paul does not answer how can we reconcile God's Sovereignty with His Justice. He simply calls us to humbly accept the reality that God is both Sovereign and Just

9. The Sovereignty of God

III - The Sovereignty of God: objections responded

2nd Objection: This doctrine makes God unjust.

Ro 9:14-16

Abraham's intercession for Sodom Gn 18:25 "Shall not the Judge of all the earth deal justly?"

Practical note: I suggest we do not start our evangelism with this doctrine. Jesus, Paul nor any of the apostles started here, at least per what we know from the Biblical record of their preaching

9. The Sovereignty of God

III - The Sovereignty of God: objections responded

3rd Objection: This doctrine annuls Man's free will.

Phil 2:12-13

Answer: God never achieves His purposes with man acting against his own will. He changes our will so that we may want to do what is pleasing to Him and sometimes He lets us act according to the desires of our hearts for our own condemnation, but God never does things in us against our will.

This is something we will consider later when we study the Doctrine of Man, but unless God does not actively intervene in us so that we may seek Him, none of us would come to Christ, for there is none who seeks after God by his own nature

9. The Sovereignty of God

III - The Sovereignty of God: objections responded

4th. Objection: This doctrine discourages any incentive to be responsible.

2Tim 2:10

Answer: God has decreed both the ends and the means. The Bible teaches that God will act according to our prayers, our evangelistic efforts, our diligence, etc.

Evangelism results are the effects of God's Plan. Many of the great evangelists in the History of the church defended the Sovereignty of God in the same we have explained it.

9. The Sovereignty of God

III - The Sovereignty of God: objections responded

4th. Objection: This doctrine discourages any incentive to be responsible.

2Tim 2:10

Sadly, the story today is quite different. God continues saving many according to His eternal purpose, mainly not through us, but through non-Reformed believers because He decreed to save through the preaching of the word. He is still sovereignly saving through those who many times believe, it is up to them to save, but they still preach the true Gospel

9. The Sovereignty of God

IV - The Sovereignty of God: Applications

Taken from the notes of pastor Sugel Michelen

1-We should be careful of not using the decreed will of God as an excuse to disobey His revealed will or to blame God for human sin, suffering and its condemnation **(Ro 9:19-20)**

2-Christians should take comfort in the fact that God's decreed will ordains every event in our lives, even the actions and intentions of evil people for our own good and for His Glory **(Ro 8:28)**

9. The Sovereignty of God

IV - The Sovereignty of God: Applications

Taken from the notes of pastor Sugel Michelen

3-We should fear and revere God, submitting to Him in meekness, without murmuring, or bitterness, concerning whatever His decreed will has ordained for us

1 Pe 4:19

4- We must recognize the Sovereignty of God for any future plans we may have **Jam 4:15**

END