

Truth and the Human Will

Commentary for November 15, 2014 — Freedom Is Not Involved

Recently I spoke with several people at different times about the extent of our free will. One understanding is clear in Scripture: “free will” does not exist except in the person of God the Father, YHWH, who alone possesses it. Only He is free. Only He can express His will freely. Only He has “free will.” Everyone else is subject to His will, and that includes Christ:

“Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.”

• *Romans 13:1*

“You [God] have put all things in subjection under his feet [the feet of the Son]. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him.”

• *Hebrews 2:8*

In the future, all power and rule shall be subject to Christ under God the Father. Christ will then subject Himself to the Father, giving Him all rule, power, and authority:

“For HE has put all things under his feet. But when HE said all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under HIM. And when all things shall be subdued unto HIM, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto HIM that put all things under HIM, that God may be all in all.”

• *1 Corinthians 15:27–28*

From the context, the first two instances of “HE” refer to Christ. The third instance of “HE” and all instances of “HIM” refer to God the Father. God the Father is the subject; Christ is the subject.

This passage is clearer in the Concordant Literal Version. The verbs “subject” or “subjects” occur six times in Greek in these two verses. I emphasize them in underlined CAPS *italic*:

“For He SUBJECTS all under His feet. Now whenever He may be saying that all IS SUBJECT, it is evident that it is outside of Him Who SUBJECTS all to Him.

Now, whenever all MAY BE SUBJECTED to Him, then the Son Himself also SHALL BE SUBJECTED to Him Who SUBJECTS all to Him, [why?] that God may be All in all.)”

• *1 Corinthians 15:27–28*

The apostle Paul is making clear the precise relationship of Christ (the Son) to God the Father. He is a subordinate now, just as He was subordinate before He was born of Mary. He will be subordinate after He hands the Kingdom of God to the Father.¹

The phrase “free will” does not exist in Scripture. There are only degrees of human will,

¹ The Kingdom of God will exist even beyond the eons (Luke 1:33), but Christ will not rule over you or me, although He will always be “**the captain of their** [and our] **salvation**” (Hebrews 2:10).

which give us a sense, a false impression, even an illusion, of autonomy. The more choices and options you and I have in life, in any given situation, the more you and I feel free. Yet true freedom can only come from God through Christ.

Only YHWH Has Free Will

Anyone subject to another has limits on their ability to exercise his or her will. First Corinthians 15:27–28 cited above tells us that God the Father alone has free will. However, it is possible to unite oneself in purpose with YHWH so you can be one with His will. As in most things, Christ is our example (“**I and my Father are one,**” John 10:30).

“Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;

[why?] **That they all may be one; as you, Father, are in me, and I in you,**

[why?] **that they also may be one in us:**

[why?] **that the world may believe that you have sent me.**

And the glory which you gave me I have given them;

[why?] **that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and you in me,**

[why?] **that they may be made perfect in one; and**

[why?] **that the world may know that you have sent me, and have loved them, as you have loved me.”**

• **John 17:20–23**

We can be “one” with the Father as Christ is one with the Father.² We can be one with each other as Christ is one with the Father.

This will be done through the presentation of truth to all people (eventually). There cannot begin to be freedom without truth. Concerning this, Jesus told the Jews about His death:

“Then said Jesus unto them,

‘When you have lifted up the Son of man, then shall you know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father has taught me, I speak these things. And he that sent me is with me: the Father has not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him.’

Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him,

‘If you continue in my word, then are you my disciples indeed; And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

• **John 8:28–32**

Jesus went on in verse 36: **“If the Son therefore shall make you free, you shall be free indeed”** (John 8:36). How would they be made free? They become free by learning the truth about God and the truth of God — from the actions of the Son of God, Christ Jesus, who will make them free. All will become one with God, as Christ is One with God.

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² We are one with the Father by virtue of our being **“in Christ”** (Roman 12:4–5; 1 Corinthians 12:12–14, 15:22; 2 Corinthians 5:17–19; Galatians 3:28; Ephesians 3:6).