

The Divine Decree: Omniscience & Free Will: Omniscience Defined; the Divine Standard; What Righteousness Demands Justice Executes; Inside the Bubble; Composites of Integrity; Operation of the Attributes; Integrity & Free Will: Characteristics of the Will of God

Omniscience & Free Will:

1. God's knowledge is referred to as omniscience: all-knowing. With regard to human history His omniscience has comprehended all that is knowable about every person that has or will ever live.
2. Therefore, God knew who you were in eternity past. He knew your name, address, city, state, ZIP code, phone number, and e-mail address.
3. God's knowledge is eternal and superior to human intelligence. God knows perfectly, eternally, and simultaneously all that is knowable both actual and possible.
4. God's knowledge is never complicated by ignorance, absurdities, or emotional reaction. It can never change or be found inaccurate.
5. God's omniscience does know all that would have happened were decisions different from what they are.
6. Nevertheless, His omniscience informed Him of what actually occurs in human history as a result of human free will.
7. Perceiving what will occur does not in any way suggest divine interference with, control of, or tampering with human free will.
8. Since every person is a free agent, then the following principle illustrates the independence of human volition:

Omniscience perceives the free as free [God does not tamper with your volition], the necessary as necessary [divine justice is our point of reference with the integrity of God], together with all their causes, conditions, successions, and relations, as one indivisible system of things [every cause and effect is related to another cause and effect, and so on, so that the course of human history is just as man thinks it, wills it, and does it], every link of which is essential to the integrity of the whole [during the Church Age, human free will determines the up- and downtrends of history].
9. The free will of both God and man coexist. The decisions of each are programmed into the computer of the divine decree in the ROM and PROM chips respectively.
10. God has standards which define His righteousness. These are absolute and unalterable and constitute the perfection of God's thinking.
11. Although man is free to make his own choices, God's omniscience responds to those decisions in accordance with His righteous standards.
12. Righteousness demands righteousness and justice demands justice. What righteousness demands, justice must execute.
13. Righteousness rejects sin, therefore justice condemns it. What righteous approves, justice honors. What righteousness disapproves, justice judges.
14. The grace of God provided a solution to man's sin problem with the substitutionary provision of Jesus Christ.
15. The righteousness of God approved of Jesus as the qualified Substitute and justice honored that provision.
16. Righteousness rejected the sins of the human race and justice condemned them.

17. At the cross, righteousness demanded that the sins of mankind be transferred from the human race and placed on the innocent Christ and justice complied.
18. Once done, righteousness demanded that these sins be judged and justice judged them.
19. These divine decisions and actions removed sin as an issue and made it possible for mankind to receive the righteousness of God by faith alone in Christ alone.
20. At salvation, the righteousness of God is imputed to the believer which opens a pipeline between that imputed righteousness and the justice of God.
21. Although your sins were judged at the cross, they remain an issue in the angelic conflict for the sin nature is still active in the human body.
22. The grace provision for dealing with personal sin is the rebound technique: confession alone to God alone.
23. When sins are confessed, the believer is restored inside the bubble of the divine dynasphere where he can grow in grace, produce divine good, and carryout God's plan for his life as it is revealed in Scripture.
24. The provision of doctrine contained in the Bible is our point of reference for spiritual growth and the diminishment of the influence of the sin nature in our lives.
25. Nevertheless, we do sin, we make poor decisions, we engage in human good and, left unchecked, decline into evil.
26. It is omniscience that programs the decree. The ROM chip contains the sovereign policies, standards, and decisions regarding how God will manage the choices of human free will.
27. The PROM chip contains the decisions observed by omniscience that divine policies and standards will manage.
28. As events play out in human history, the relationship between the sovereignty of God and the free will of man coexist from the source of the decree.
29. Divine omniscience enabled God to enter every human decision into the computer. How He responded to each of these decisions was also entered into the computer.
30. It is of necessity that all events in human history were understood by God in eternity past. But what if God did not possess the divine attribute of omniscience?
31. If God created the human race to resolve the angelic conflict and if He allowed mankind to function with free will without prior knowledge of the ramifications, then it would be impossible for Him to manage history to His desired conclusion.
32. Picture this: there are presently seven billion people alive on this earth. Pretend for a moment that God's essence does not include omniscience. If the free-will functions of each person were only perceived by God as they occur, then His ability to manage the causes, conditions, secessions, and relations of each would be impossible.
33. But His essence does include omniscience. The Lord referred to this attribute when He spoke to Jeremiah in Jeremiah 1:5, "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you."

Visual #5:

**Divine Dynasphere:
Inside the Bubble**

34. Thus, from the beginning, mankind's free will has been and shall remain completely free. God's sovereignty has been and shall continue to respond to those decisions within the context of His integrity. Divine integrity consists of His love and its composites of righteousness, justice, and omniscience expressed through His policy of grace.

Visual #6:
Integrity of God:
Composites

35. If divine love can be defined by one English word it would be "integrity." Divine integrity is made up of composites of righteousness, justice, love, and omniscience.

36. What righteousness demands, justice must execute, under the policy of grace, from the source of omniscience.

37. Righteousness represents the perfect standards of divine integrity. Justice administers what the righteous standards demand with fairness. Grace is all that God is free to do for mankind on the basis of the cross. His complete knowledge of all the facts associated with human free will is provided by omniscience and is unalterably retained in the divine decree.

Visual #7:
Integrity of God:
Standard,
Function, &
Demonstration

38. Therefore, these composites produce the unfailing love of God which is an attribute, not an emotion, is stable not fickle, and is fair, not prejudiced.

39. This brings us to the relationship between divine integrity and the free will of man.

Integrity & Free Will:

1. The sovereignty of God is His absolute authority over all things and His rulership of all things is expressed in the divine decree.
2. It was His divine decision to include in His plan the creation of a race of people who would be provided with free will to function as free agents and for their decisions to be adjudicated under policies intrinsic to divine integrity.
3. In the case of every free-will act of a moral agent, the divine decree itself provides the following:
 - (1) The agent shall be a free agent under self-determination and is accountable for his own bad decisions.
 - (2) The antecedents and all antecedents of every act in question shall be what they shall be, i.e., decisions are causes that result in effects that become causes, and so on. God knows *all* the facts. He causes no human decisions – human free will produces all actions and their results.
 - (3) All present conditions of the act shall be what they are: the act is your very own act.
 - (4) The act shall be perfectly spontaneous and free on the part of the agent. There is no coercion by God.
 - (5) It shall be certainly future and is recorded in the PROM chip.
4. The divine objective is both *preservation* and *deliverance* of believers, as well as the glorification of God through the imputation of blessing to believers.
5. The work of God in this respect is called providence, by which He molds all events into the fulfillment of His purpose and eternal pleasure.
6. Therefore, *preservation* continues the existence of things, but *providence* directs their progress by way of the characteristics of the will of God. The will of God is:

- (1) **Directive.** God has a plan for our lives. Man has the free will prerogative to be inside the bubble where God has meaning and purpose for our lives.
 - (2) **Determinative.** God has permitted non-meritorious volition to bring us to the place of blessing or cursing. God never tries to tamper with free will.
 - (3) **Permissive.** Negative volition to Bible doctrine is permitted by divine justice, which provides discipline as an alternative in time only.
 - (4) **Preventative.** It provides doctrine, establishment laws, problem-solving devices, the royal family honor code, and divine discipline to influence human volition to remain inside the will of God.
 - (5) **Overruling:** Because of the pivot of mature believers, God will save a nation, an area, a business, an organization, a church, or a home.
7. God did not decree mankind to sin, but He did decree that we have free will with the option to sin or not to sin.
 8. Omniscience informed God about the thoughts, decisions, and actions that would lead one believer to spiritual maturity and another into reversionism.
 9. With this knowledge, God sovereignly decreed that history would include the provision of blessings and rewards for the former but suffering and discipline for the latter.
 10. Therefore, the integrity of God plays an active part in human history. Omniscience fed into the computer's ROM chip the divine response to human free-will choices.
 11. Although our choices are free, i.e., uncoerced and unconstrained by God, our presence in history is a divine choice at the moment of physical birth.