

- We must teach the Church to pray for all people.
- A special love
- One way
- God's disposition toward the world
- Women in the church
- A look at the PCA

The **Decretive Will of God** is that which is God's sovereign will that we may or may not know, depending on whether or not God reveals it to us. The decretive will is God's direct will where he causes something to be, he decrees it. For example, God has caused the universe to exist as well as Christ's incarnation.

The **Preceptive Will of God** is the will of God for man. For example, God wills that man does not sin, that we do not lie, do not steal, etc. It is the will of God for man that is revealed through his Law (Exodus 20:1-17) where God is concerned with man following his precepts. It is also the will of God for us to be holy, repent, love, etc. (1 Pet. 1:16; Acts 17:30; John 13:34)



1. Is there a contradiction between God's desire for all to be saved and the doctrine of election? (Read Ephesians 1:11, Romans 9:6-24)

Are you equipped to explain your understanding of this teaching?

2. Why should we pray for all authorities including government leaders? (1 Timothy 2:2)

3. Understanding that there is only one God, one Mediator, and one method for salvation should provoke us to constantly intercede for the lost. We should intercede for them while at the supermarket, while on the bus, while at the restaurant. Read Matthew 9:38. What else should we be praying for?

4. What reasons does Paul give for not allowing women to teach and have authority over males in worship?

5. How should women conduct themselves in worship?

The Will of God

And excerpt from Ligonier Ministries Devotionals

Martin Luther, the driving personality of the Protestant Reformation, made several distinctions that we continue to follow today. One of these is the distinction between God hidden and God revealed. Luther's desire was to convey a specific truth with this distinction, namely, that if we are to know the Lord, the Lord must reveal Himself to us. But in revealing Himself, God does not reveal everything there is to know about Him. He keeps part of Himself hidden, whether because we could not comprehend what He keeps hidden or because He simply chooses to exercise His sovereign freedom and not tell us certain things.

Deuteronomy 29:29 provides the essential biblical teaching that underlies this distinction. In this passage, Moses tells the Israelites that there are some things that are secret and belong only to "the Lord our God." Certain realities are for our Creator—and only our Creator—to know. At the same time, God has condescended to mankind in order to reveal to us certain truths about His character and plan. These truths are for us to know forever.

This passage indicates that the Lord has two wills—one hidden and one revealed. God's hidden will (also known as His decretive will, will of decree, or absolute will) includes all that He has ordained. His will of decree establishes every event in history, every thought and intention of every person, everything that ever happens. This will extends even to the ordination of evil, for the Lord works out everything according to the counsel of His will (Eph. 1:11). Importantly, not everything that God ordains in His hidden will is in itself pleasing to Him. Considered in themselves, He hates the evils He ordains, but He ordains them in order to overcome evil and achieve a greater good that does please Him (Rom. 8:28).

God's revealed will is also known as His will of precept or preceptive will. This will tells us what the Lord finds pleasing. Chiefly, the revealed will of God is His moral law. When Scripture calls us to do the will of the Lord, it is this will that is in view. We cannot know His hidden will except in retrospect. We can look back in history and know what was part of the Lord's hidden, or decretive, will up until this point because God's decretive will always comes to pass. Whatever happens in history manifests what He ordained in His sovereign but hidden will. Yet we are not called to seek out this hidden will, which we cannot know in advance anyway because God hides it from us. Instead, we are to live by what the Lord has revealed in His preceptive will. As we obey His commandments, we please our Creator

Passages for Further Study

Job 12, Psalm 119:17-24, Isaiah 40:12-14, 1 John 2:17