

What We Teach – A Journey thru the KBC Doctrinal Statement Week 6, “God the Father, Part 2”, October 10, 2021

The Father Chooses Those Who are Saved

We teach that the sovereign Father has graciously and mercifully chosen, before the foundation of the world, those whom He would save and have as His own (**Ephesians 1:4-6**)

The **Sphere** of election: “In Christ” (3, 4)

The **Time** of election: “Before the foundation of the world” (4)

The **Motivation** of election: “Love” (4)

The **Basis** of election: “Kind intention of His will” (His gracious and sovereign will) (5)

The **Purpose** of election: “To the praise of the glory of His grace” (6)

as a love gift to His Son (**John 17:6**)

Election is an overflow of inter-Trinitarian love.

while justly leaving the rest of fallen humanity in their sin (**Romans 9:14-24**).

Out of the mass of cursed and willfully rebellious human beings, God graciously chooses some for salvation while leaving the rest to their fallen state and just condemnation.

As a result of this decree, He will in time infallibly draw those whom He has chosen into a saving relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ (**John 6:44**) and they will freely come to the Father through faith in Christ (Matthew 11:25-30; John 1:12-13; 3:16; **6:35-37, 45**).

God’s sovereign choosing is not fatalism (“what will be will be no matter what”). God uses MEANS (i.e., faithful communication of the Word, and proper response to that Word via uncoerced faith and repentance) to accomplish His ENDS (i.e., salvation).

The Father Sovereignly Plans and Executes All Things

We teach that for His own glory the Father has decreed all things that come to pass (**Ephesians 1:11**). He continually upholds, directs and governs all creatures and events (**1 Chronicles 29:11**; Daniel 4:34-35).

- 1) **God's Decree.** God is the *architect* (author) of history.

- 2) **God's Providence.** God ensures His plan is executed in time and space as its *builder*.
 - a. **Government.** God's specific and meticulous guidance of creation and the events of history to achieve His purpose.

 - b. **Preservation.** God's sustaining power behind what we call the laws of nature.

 - c. **Concurrence.** God's normative use of secondary causes (means) to achieve his purposes (ends). This is His "ordinary providence." God sometimes by-passes secondary causes in order to exercise His "extraordinary providence" (miracles).

- 3) **God's Omnipotence.** In order for God's decree and providential actions in creation and history to be maintained, He must possess all the requisite powers to ensure His plan is executed.

In His sovereignty He neither directly causes nor approves of sin (**Habakkuk 1:13**), nor does His sovereign decree or providential activity ever diminish the accountability and responsibility of His moral, intelligent creatures (**Romans 1:18-20**; **1 Peter 1:17**).

We teach that the Father always upholds both His sovereign and prescribed will in a manner totally consistent with His character as revealed in the life of the Lord Jesus Christ (**Matthew 11:25-30**; **2 Timothy 1:9**)

God's Sovereign Will: What He has sovereignly decreed (planned, ordained, ordered) to occur in creation and history.

God's Prescribed Will: What God has universally determined is right and good and true as an outflow of His own character.