



www.clctx.org

Free Will vs. Freed Will

By Dr. John A. King

Salvation doctrine part #2

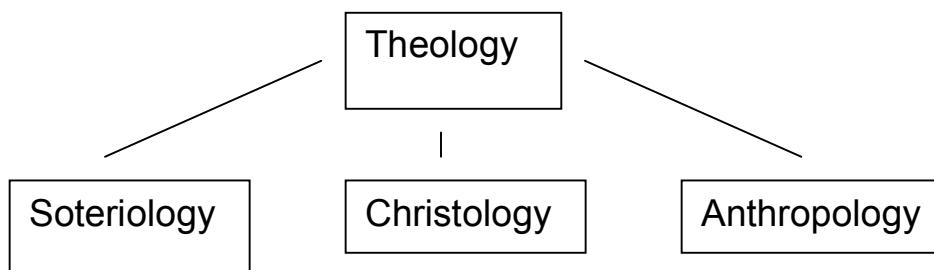
A church without theology or a theology without God simply is not an option for the Christian faith. One can have religion without God. One can have religion without theology. But one cannot have Christianity without them.

Theology: The study of God and the Christian faith

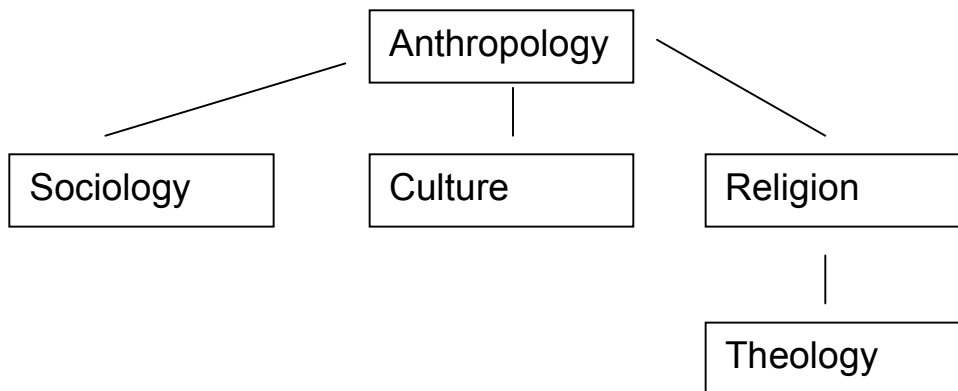
Anthropology: The study of human culture. The part of human doctrine that concerns the nature and origin of man. It started as a Christian doctrine and has become a humanistic doctrine.

(DO YOU WANT TO ADD THE DEFINITIONS OF ALL THE WORDS USED???)

God-centered view of theology



Man-Centered view of theology



Really Big Concept

We are going to look at a couple of what I would call 'Really Big Concepts' or RBCs. They are the cornerstone of our faith and our Christian walk.

We will now be looking at the whole issue of Free Will vs. Freed Will and Irresistible Grace.

The Issue of Will

Genesis 3

Original sin does not refer specifically to the sin of Adam and Eve.

Original sin refers to the result of the sin of Adam and Eve.

Original sin is the effect on all of mankind as a result of the actions of Adam and Eve.

It goes something like this: Adam and Eve sinned.

That is the first sin. As a result of their sin humanity was plunged into moral ruin.

Human nature underwent a moral fall. Things changed for us after the first sin was committed.

The human race became corrupt.

This subsequent corruption is known as the doctrine of original sin.

Again, we commit sins because it is our nature to sin (as a result of the fall).

It was not man's original nature to sin, but after the Fall his moral nature changed.

Now, because of original sin, we have a fallen and corrupt nature and we have no love and hunger for God.

Before the fall Adam was endowed with two possibilities: He had the ability to sin and the ability not to sin.

After the fall Adam had the ability to sin and the inability to not sin.

After the fall man was morally incapable of living without sin.

The ability to live without sin was lost in the Fall.

This moral inability is the essence of what we call original sin.

The state of Our Heart

Ezekiel 36:26

26 And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

Apart from the grace of regeneration, a person's soul or heart is like a stone. It is inert, unfeeling, and unresponsive. It is called stony, because it is morally hard. The heart of stone is a heart of darkness, lacking both life and light and no hunger for God, no desire to seek Him.

The wonder of regeneration is that it changes the heart from a lifeless form to a pulsating vibrant living thing within us.

Now think this through....

1. Before we can find God, we must first desire to seek God.

Jeremiah 29:13

13 You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

2. Before we can choose the good, we must first have a desire for the good. Before we can choose Christ, we must first have a desire to choose Christ.

So the sum of the whole issue of free will is.....

Does fallen man, in and of himself without any help from God, have the desire and ability for and to choose God?

The answer is logically 'no'. He has not desire, no inclination, no ability.

Man, in his state of innocence, had freedom and ability to chose and to do what was good and well-pleasing to God, he had a will from it.

We see this in Gen 2:16, 17 with God's instruction to man about eating the fruit form the trees.

Man, by his fall into a state of sin, has completely lost all ability to choose any spiritual good that accompanies salvation.

Therefore, an unregenerate man, because he is opposed to that good and is dead in sin, is unable by his own strength to convert himself or to prepare himself to be converted.

Romans 8:7

7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.

When God converts a sinner and brings him into the state of grace, He frees him from his natural bondage to sin, and by His grace alone He enables him to do what is spiritually good.

Yet, because of his remaining corruption, he does not perfectly do only what is good, because he still wills to do evil.

Colossians 1:13

13 He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,

Let me summarize it like this for you:

Mankind does not have a free will to chose Christ, after Christ chooses him. He then has a FREED WILL to follow Christ after he is born again.

The will of man

Pre-fall man	Post-fall man	Reborn Man	Glorified Man
Able to sin	Able to sin	Able to sin	
Able to not sin		Able to not sin	Able to not sin
	Unable to not sin		
			Unable to sin

Effectual Calling – irresistible grace

Here we come to the next **Really Big Concept (RBC)** that you have to come to terms with to truly grasp the power, the greatness, the grace and generosity of salvation.

It is a concept call Effectual Call or Irresistible Grace.

Romans 8:30

30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

Now this term is a 16th century term – it was written in 1647 in the Westminster Confession. This was a collective statement of faith drawn up by a whole bunch of passionate men of God.

All those—and only those—whom God has predestined to life, he is pleased to call effectually in his appointed and accepted time, by his Word and Spirit.

He calls them from the state of sin and death—in which they are by nature—to grace and salvation by Jesus Christ.

In this calling, God enlightens their minds spiritually and savingly, so that they understand the things of God. He takes away their hearts of stone and gives them hearts of flesh, renews their wills, and by his almighty power turns them to what is good and effectually draws them to Jesus Christ. Yet he does this in such a way that they come most freely, being made willing by his grace.

What is spoken of here is a many-sided reality of the conversion of Christ.

Let's break this down.

Effectual: Successful in producing intended result

Calling: An urge to do a particular thing.

See it is not hard... all it means is that God creates an urge in those that ultimately end up acknowledging Him as Savior. An urge that can not be resisted. An urge to submit to the Lordship of Christ.

Doesn't that seem reasonable? That God would call those that He chooses to Himself. Yes!!!

1. Original sin renders all human beings naturally dead (or rather unresponsive) to God,
2. but the concept of effectual calling means that God quickens the dead. He calls His chosen people to Himself.

How does this work?

- a. As the outward call of God to faith in Christ is communicated through the reading, preaching, and explaining of the contents of the Bible, the Holy Spirit enlightens and renews the heart of elect sinners so that they understand the gospel and embrace it as truth from God, and
- b. God in Christ becomes to them an object of desire and affection.
- c. Being now regenerate and able by the use of their freed will (notice this is important freed will, not free will) They choose God and the good, they turn away from their former pattern of living to receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and to start a new life with him.

Namely....God chooses us. We don't choose God. God chooses US and we respond to that choosing or calling.

Misconceptions:

There are numerous misconceptions concerning Irresistible Grace or Effectual Calling.

- Irresistible Grace does not teach that men are forced to Christ, but those men, when given a new nature and freed from their sinful bondage, will willingly come to Christ because they now truly know who He is.

There will be no one in heaven who is frustrated because God forced them to believe.

Unbelievers reject Christ just as willingly as the regenerated accept Him.

- Also, critics have rejected the doctrine of Irresistible Grace because they say that a person is saved by faith and that they generate themselves.

This is the mistake of making regeneration synonymous with salvation.

Regeneration is not the same as salvation! Regeneration is unto salvation.

Acts 16:14 ESV One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul.

A person is not saved until the heart, as a result of regeneration, genuinely and accurately believes on Christ. You are only saved by faith, and you only are given a measure of faith at your Salvation.

A final and crucial thing to remember: Irresistible Grace cannot exist without the Gospel!

Some say: *“Well, why do we share the Gospel? Those that are meant to be saved will believe regardless of what we do.”*

This is a false assumption and is contrary to Scripture. The elect believe only through the message of Christ that we have been commanded to proclaim – there is no other way!

He said go into all the world to preach...and unless you preach, they can not hear.

Romans 10:14

14 How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?

There is no greater motivation and no bigger burden to those of us who have been saved by irresistible grace than to share.

A Season of Souls – believing to reap the harvest.

a) Believing for people who have never given their hearts to Christ to become born again.

b) Believing for people who have only every known the bondage of religion to experience the freedom that we have all come to value.

- c) Believing for whole families to get saved.
- d) Believing for the presence of God to hover over our church campus.
- e) Think Big, Dream Big, Hope Big, Pray Big.