

Session 20

Discovering God's Will for Our Lives

1. Discipleship Scenario

2. Discussion Questions

"What is the Will of God and How Do We Know It?", by John Piper

- In your own words, what is the premise of Piper's article and how does it seek to explain the dilemma that, "...*God is sovereign over all things, and yet disapproves of many things*". Provide 1-2 examples from Scripture to support his claim.
- How do you define God's "Will of Decree" (God's Sovereign Will)? What are its most distinguishing characteristics?
- How do you define God's "Will of Command"? What are its most distinguishing characteristics? (how does it conflict with God's sovereign will?)
- How can being aware of these two dimensions of God's will be a significant source of encouragement and comfort to the suffering Christian? Reflect upon a time when you suffered or experienced significant grief. How could an understanding of this material have been a source of help to you at that time?
- Which will of God, according to Piper, is being referred to in Romans 12:2? What reasons does he give in support of this conclusion? Do you agree/disagree?

- Describe the three steps of knowing and doing the revealed will of God. Is it wrong to ask God to reveal His will for us in a new situation? What role does His Word play in assisting the Christian to face new situations, those not clearly spelled out in Scripture, or the spontaneous actions/decisions in his/her life?
- How do you evaluate your current practice of reading, studying, and meditating on God's Word to make you fit for the task of discerning His will? What, if anything, do you sense needs to change?

"Discovering God's Will", by Sinclair B. Ferguson

- In your own words, what is the premise of Ferguson's article and how is it relevant to your life as a Christian man?
- ("Is it Lawful?") Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-11. In what way does this passage support the idea that true Christian freedom is the freedom to love and obey God's law?
- ("Is it Beneficial?") Why might the response, "*There's nothing wrong with it!*" be insufficient in helping to discern God's will in a particular situation? What might this response fail to consider? Provide a recent example in your own life where this was the case.
- ("Is it Enslaving?") Read 1 Cor 6:12. The enslaving nature of neutral liberties comes when we cannot be content without them...we simply must have them! "They are no longer our liberties, but our chains." What examples can you think of in your own life?

- (“Is it Consistent with Christ’s Lordship?) How are you served in the decisions you face today by asking if the course of action you’re considering is totally consistent with your personal confession that “Jesus Christ is my Lord?” Please be specific.
- (“Is it Helpful to Others?”) What role does considering the benefit of others play into the decisions you make regarding the liberties God has given you as a Christian? How do passages like 1 Cor 10:33 affect your thinking? Are there any decisions you made in the last few months that would have been different had you considered this question more thoughtful?
- (“Is it Consistent With Biblical Example?”) What examples from Scripture can be applied (either directly or indirectly) to the decisions you now face? How can you grow in your understanding of Scripture to serve you in this purpose? What tools can you recommend a person desiring to grow in this area?

3. Scripture Memory Verses

Philippians 1:9-11 And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰ so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

4. Exercise

Go around the room and ask the men to confess any sin they have been convicted of in the discussion. Be brief...now is not the time for extended counseling, but confession that leads to prayer. Take time to ask God in prayer for help in putting these sins to death and establish appropriate follow-up.