

“Teach me to do Your will, For You are my God; Let Your good Spirit lead me on level ground”
Psalm 143:10

The Will of God: Explicit

A common question among Christians is “What is God’s Will for my life?” For new Christians, this is an honest request for guidance by someone just learning to walk. Others may be genuinely seeking what the Lord would have them do in a particular situation. But for many, “searching” or waiting for God to reveal their path is an excuse to do nothing.

The Bible gives us plenty of clear-cut direction on what the Lord wants us to do. This is sometimes called God’s explicit, revealed, or perceived will. It can be clearly understood from Scripture and applies to all Christians. It can also be disobeyed. Highlight action verbs or commands in your Bible and you will quickly begin to see what God’s will is for your life. If you use yellow, you’ll have a visual “yellow brick road” to follow. Believe. Go. Teach. Forgive. Obey. Love. Worship. Honor. Stop. There are over a thousand direct commands for Christians in the New Testament alone. Christ condensed them all into two: Love God and Love your neighbor.

If this were bowling, God’s explicit will would correlate to the objective of the game: use the ball to knock down the pins. As long as you are working toward that objective, you have freedom about what equipment you use and your method. Do you put a powerful spin on the ball, or throw it like a granny? Do you have custom made gear, or just use whatever beat-up stuff the lane provides? On a league? Glow-in-the-dark? If the ball knocks down the pins, it counts. Do not mistake this freedom for permissiveness though. You cannot use a baseball and bat.

Within those two commands of God—love God and love your neighbor—there is a great deal of freedom. What do you enjoy doing? Take a moment to really think about the things that you love. Does it express love for God? Does it show love for your neighbor? If so, do it! If it doesn’t, what needs to change? Or maybe you have a responsibility that you don’t want to do, but must. Ask the same questions. Does it demonstrate love for God or love for your neighbor to those around you? If so, find peace or even joy in knowing that it is God’s will for you. Again, this is not license for permissiveness. Our heart, soul, and mind must all be engaged in our choices of how we follow God’s commands. (Galatians 5:13; I Peter 2:16)

Our Creator made us as “image bearers” to reflect Him to the world. But we are not infinite, immortal or infallible. Our reflection will only show Him in part, and so, will look different than the reflection of our brothers and sisters. Together, the body of Christ here on earth will look like our Lord and Savior. That image will only be a cohesive whole if all of us are obeying God’s explicit will to “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind; and love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:37-39)

To be continued.