

Will of God vs Will of Man

(1/11/26)

Please turn to *Genesis 1*.

If there really is a God Who:

- Created the entire universe including Earth and us.
- Is all powerful.
- Is all seeing.
- Is all knowing.

Then, to quote Kent Hovind, **we need to find out Who He is and more pointedly: what He wants.**

And if there's any wisdom within us, when facing an all-powerful, all-seeing, all-knowing LORD: **to obey Him.**

SCENARIO. The following scenario is fictional; just an example I'm using to make a point.

Imagine if, one Sunday, I announce from this pulpit **I'm stepping down** to "deal with personal issues." After I do so I ghost everyone: no more Facebook, stop responding to calls and texts, everything. Months pass with no contact from me whatsoever.

One day I show up at your door and I'm not looking too good.

I've lost a bunch of weight, haven't showered or changed my clothes in what looks and smells like weeks, you smell booze on my breath, and suspect a whole lot more. I ask if I can crash at your place for a short time, that Becky kicked me out (and I have no idea why). I assure you that I'm trying to fix that situation, but just need a few days of not sleeping under a bridge and some food would be great.

Out of compassion, you tell me I can sleep on your couch. **I evade any questions** you have about why I'm in this situation or what's going on. You call Becky and she tells you that I became addicted to drugs and did them in our home, drained all our money including our retirement AND the kid's accounts, and the straw that broke the camel's back was when drug dealers started coming to our home looking for me.

The next night you come home from work and, when you walk in, **I'm getting beat up by several guys in your living room.** You recognize one of them as "Johnny", a well-known drug dealer. When you walk in on the scene, Johnny is screaming at me that I need to "pay what I owe him or else." With one last kick to my gut, Johnny and his gang leave.

QUESTIONS (please answer out loud):

- Do you love and have compassion for me?
- Do you want me freed from my struggles and restored to the man I once was?
- Are you willing to help me do this in any way you can?
- ***Just to be clear: you don't lack love, compassion, or a desire to help?***

NEXT SET OF QUESTIONS:

- Do my actions in your house, and the company I keep, present a clear and present danger to you and your kids?
- Do you have the right to make rules for me and enforce them?
- Is your intention behind said rules to be cruel and legalistic, or protection of you and your family?
- Do you have any desire to punish me for disobedience or see me suffer?
- If I disregard your rules, do you have the authority to rebuke me, ask me to leave or even call the cops?
- ***What gives you the right to make rules and enforce them?***

I used to really hate it when my dad said this, and now I say it, but haven't we told our kids and grandkids: **"my house, my rules!"**

QUESTIONS:

- Are we as moral as God?
- As smart? Knowing?
- Are our rights and authority equal to His?
- If we can say "my house, my rules!" to our kids & grandkids, then why can't God?
- If we expect our kids to obey us, then why can't God?
- When obedience to God is preached, do we think of such preaching as legalistic?

If we have love and compassion for our kids and grandkids even when we're creating and enforcing boundaries, then why can't God?

If the boundaries we create aren't meant to be cruel and legalistic, but are actually for the GOOD of those we love, then isn't God capable of the same?

Would it be fair and accurate to say He's capable of far MORE love, compassion, and wisdom through that process?

That He's MORE worthy of obedience than we are?

God exists and everything said about Him in the Bible is true: **He created the entire universe:** galaxies, the sun, the moon, and the stars. He created the earth, humanity, all the animals, all the trees and plants, everything.

This is His house and we're living in it...and He does have a will.

- He's also created a very detailed plan and did so before He created anything.
- He fully intends to carry out His plans, and He will successfully do so.
- Nothing or no one can or will stop Him.

The purpose of this sermon series **is NOT to present Him as this harsh and cruel master Who enforces His will with a spiritual whip.**

Its purpose is a reminder to all of us that God has a will and we'd do well to obey Him.

Being God, He has every right and all the authority to make these plans, set boundaries, and enforce them.

Whether we built, bought, or rent our home and property: it's ours and we feel a sense of authority whilst there. We love our children and grandchildren and enjoy their presence! We had them so we could be a family and love each other. We desire to raise and take care of them.

That all being said, *we also expect not just respect, but obedience from them.* It's our house and they're living there.

[Gen 1:1-31 ESV] 1 In the beginning, **God created the heavens and the earth.** 2 The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. 3 **And God said, "Let there be light,"** and there was light. 4 And God saw that the light was good. And God **separated the light from the darkness.** 5 **God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night.** And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. 6 And God said, **"Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters."** 7 And God made the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so. 8 And **God called the expanse Heaven.** And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. 9 And God said, **"Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear."** And it was so. 10 **God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas.** And God saw that it was good. 11 And God said,

"Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth." And it was so. 12 The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. 13 And there was evening and there was morning, the third day. 14 And God said, **"Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, 15 and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth."** And it was so. 16 And God made the two great lights--the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night--and the stars. 17 **And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, 18 to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness.** And God saw that it was good. 19 And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day. 20 And God said, **"Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens."** 21 So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. 22 And God blessed them, saying, **"Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth."** 23 And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. 24 And God said, **"Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds--livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds."** And it was so. 25 And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. 26 Then God said, **"Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."** 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; **male and female he created them.** 28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, **"Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."** 29 And God said, **"Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food.** 30 And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. 31 And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

- God created light as well as day and night.
- God created the sky which He calls heaven.
- God created the oceans and planet earth.
- God created the sun, moon, and stars and gave them purpose: as signs.
- God creates vegetation, then marine life, then everything that flies in the air.

- God created “animals of the field” both wild and domestic.
- God creates us: humankind and our design is special...in His likeness.
- Of all species, God creates only male and female.
- He does so with purpose: to procreate. To go forth, multiply, and FILL the earth.
- Mankind given special authority over all other species: dominion over all the others. We are caretakers of this world.
- Vegetation is given purpose for its existence: FOOD for the animal species and humans.

God didn't just create all things, **He gave PURPOSE for all things.**

In order to assign purpose, one must first have the authority to do so.

Perhaps the reason some people feel they have no purpose is because they're trying to live their lives separate from God.

As far as creation itself is concerned, *why did God do it?*

Let's answer that from a personal level first, then we go to the Bible. If you built or bought a house, why? Not just for some place to live I hope...because we could just move into a shed. We tend to build or buy a place we LIKE. In the 1960's, my dad selected a parcel of land on GH Lake that 1) overlooked the water, 2) was set way back in the woods for privacy, and 3) set up on a hill for a better view. It was and still is a beautiful location. Then over the years he built the house he wanted. *It gave him PLEASURE to live there.*

Why did God create everything?

[Rev 4:11 KJV] 11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and **for thy pleasure they are and were created.**

God created everything for HIMSELF...for His own pleasure. He created everything to ENJOY it.

WHO did God create everything for? We just answered that, but let's answer it again:

[Col 1:15-17 ESV] 15 He [JESUS] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For **by him all things were created,** in heaven and on earth, visible and

invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him **and for him.** 17 And he is before all things, and **in him all things hold together.**

- Jesus created everything because He is God.
- He created what can be seen and what can't.
- He created all beings: both human and angel.
- What's the "glue" that holds creation together? Him...He's the glue.
- Verse 16 end: He created everything...for HIMSELF.

Earth worshippers say earth is for "mother nature" which includes both plants and animals. WRONG. God made the earth, it's for Him, and nature ain't my mother!

Secular Humanists say earth is for man. WRONG. God designed the earth and it's for Him.

God decided humans were to manage the earth but everyone here knows this: *the store manager doesn't own the place.* The owner is sitting in some high rise corporate office somewhere, or perhaps sipping a drink on a private island. We are earth's managers, and God is the owner.

And the owner calls the shots. He sends messages to the store manager of how he wants the store designed, organized, run, everything. Said manager then gets to work on it him or herself and passes the commands to the employees.

I used to work at a franchise store at a shopping mall and *dreaded the days when messages would come from "corporate."* That meant some big change was made that we needed to implement. I remember one Christmas getting just such a message on how to decorate the store and the plan was DETAILED. The worst was hanging fake snowflakes from ceiling. Not only did I have to climb a ladder, but the message had everything down to the length of the string from which the snowflakes had to hang! They wanted different lengths set x feet apart in the following design...ugh! I spent all day doing it.

God did the same with us: He gave us the Bible. The Bible reveals His will for us, His Church. How we're supposed to run our lives and how we aren't. What actions we should be taking, what ones we shouldn't. What's morally right and what is sin.

He also gives us purpose: to share His Gospel, live holy lives, follow His Son Jesus, keep sex in marriage, gather together to worship, forgive, live at peace when possible just to name a few.

He gives us His plan: Jesus is coming back, raising us from the dead, establishing His Kingdom, and we get to live there with Him forever.

He promises to overcome Satan, death, and evil: they all get tossed into the Lake of Fire forever.

- His love for us is eternal and unconditional.
- His grace and mercy are new every day and available all the time.
- He's never going to leave or forsake us.
- Every promise He's made to us, He will keep.
- We belong to Him...we are His kids. He does expect us to obey.