

Sunday Night Equipping – God's Will (part 6)

The Way of Wisdom – Principle #1:

Introduction:

Overriding Principles:

1. In those areas specifically addressed in the Bible, the revealed commands of God (His moral will) are to be obeyed.

Remember, we have seen that God's will in the Bible can be expressed in 2 ways (not 3):

1. Sovereign Will – God's secret plan to determine everything that happens in the universe
2. Moral Will – God's revealed commands in the Bible that teach how men ought to believe and live. Decisions are to be governed by appeal to the moral will of God.
3. NO Individual Will – ideal scenario blueprint...

Many today think that God's will is LOST... @ least they say they are seeking for it! ☺

- Ill) Easter bunny will of God – hidden somewhere out of sight, running through life searching
- Traumatic experience – slipping on banana peel, or motorcycle accident... etc
- Some afraid of God's will – making you do what you don't want...

Since God has a purpose/design for our lives (**Eph 2:10, Col 4:12, Rom 2:18**), He must want us to know it! He gave us an objective standard for this very purpose: His Word (the Moral Will).

This is why we study the Bible, to KNOW God's MORAL/REVEALED WILL!

1. The moral will of God is the expression (behaviorally speaking) of God's character!
 - **1 Pet 1:16** sums it up, "You shall be holy, for I am holy!" (**Lev 11:44-45**)
 - This being the case, God's moral will is more than mere external behavior modification. It touches every aspect and circumstance of life. "God is not concerned simply with *what* we do; He's equally concerned with *why* we do what we do, as well as *how* we do it. The purpose, the process, and the product are all directed by His moral will."
 - The moral will of God is *fully revealed in the Bible* and is our final authority for faith and practice.
 - **2 Timothy 3:16-17** "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;¹⁷ so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work."
 - **The Bible is Sufficient to equip believers for every good work!**
2. Aspirations, Attitudes and Actions Informed
 - Aspirations: THE WHAT
 - Ultimate Goal – Glorify God in all things (1 Pet 4:10-11, 1 Cor 10:31, Col 1:10)
 - Intermediate Goals – Serving (Rom 14:19), Making Disciples (Matt 28:18-20), etc.
 - We ought to bring our "goals" in line with these God-given goals!
 - Attitudes: THE WHY

- The attitude with which we conduct ourselves is also of extreme importance to God
 - Love not Lust, Humility not Pride, Gratitude not Presumption, Integrity not Irresponsibility, Diligence not Laziness, Generosity not Selfishness, Courage not Cowardice, Contentment not Greed.
 - Actions: THE HOW
 - God cares about our means just as He does our ends. The ends do not justify the means! We are not to just go about things whatever which way...
 - Our means must be biblically lawful and wise (not foolish)
3. Our Task
- The moral will of God can be represented by an area enclosed by a circle. “The interior of the circle represents all commands and principles that are morally binding upon the believer. Any thought, attitude, or action that conforms to the scriptural imperatives is acceptable and pleasing to God. But any thought, attitude or action that falls outside of the circle is sin (I John 3:4).”
 - So our supreme task is learning the perimeter of the circle! We must gain a good understanding of God’s moral will out of a desire to please Him (we love Him).
 - This is why John explains the connection between “love” and “obedience” in 1st John.
 - Keeps the commands of God- **1 John 2:3-6** By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. ⁴ The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; ⁵ but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: ⁶ the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.
 - Loves the brethren – **1 John 4:7-8** Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.
 - Belief in true doctrine – **1 John 2:21-23** I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it, and because no lie is of the truth. ²² Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son. ²³ Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also.
 - **Obedience to God’s Moral Will is distinctive of believers:**
 - **1 John 3:10** By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.
 - **1 John 5:1-3** Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the *child* born of Him. ² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. ³ For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.
 - **Involves a PROCESS (requires time and effort – discipline, diligence)**
 - **Reading – 1 Timothy 4:13** Until I come, give attention to the *public* reading of *Scripture*, to exhortation and teaching.
 - **Careful Consideration – 2 Timothy 2:7** Consider what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.

- **Search and Inquiry – 1 Peter 1:10-11** As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that *would come* to you made careful searches and inquiries,¹¹ seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow.
- **Diligence in Study – 2 Timothy 2:15** Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.
- **Meditation – Psalm 1:1-3** How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!² But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.³ He will be like a tree *firmly* planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season And its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers. **Joshua 1:8** "This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.
- **Memorization – Psalm 119:9** How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping *it* according to Your word.¹⁰ With all my heart I have sought You; Do not let me wander from Your commandments.¹¹ Your word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You.
- **Learning from gifted Bible teachers (Phil 4:9, I Cor 12:28-29, Gal 6:6)**
- Commentaries – interpret God’s moral will as presented in texts of Scripture
- Theology – organize doctrine into various subjects and categories
- Ethics – wrestle w/ proper application of God’s moral will to real-life situations
- Devotionals – inspire us to follow God’s moral will in everyday living
- Progress {growing in understanding & obedience}
 - **1 Corinthians 3:1-2** And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ.² I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able *to receive it*. Indeed, even now you are not yet able,
 - **Hebrews 5:12-14** For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food.¹³ For everyone who partakes *only* of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant.¹⁴ But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.
- Concluding Example of DAVID
 - **Acts 13:22** “I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My heart, who will do all My will” – what did David do? Meditated upon God’s Word!
 - *A psalm of David: Psalm 19:7-11* The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.⁸ The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.⁹ The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether.¹⁰ They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb.¹¹ Moreover, by them Your servant is warned; In keeping them there is great reward.

Conclusion: Six Clear Statements on God's Moral Will:

1. It is God's will that men be SAVED!
 - Starting place! Remember, we don't know who the elect are (God's sovereign will), but God is saving a people by His grace and for His glory (**II Tim 2:10**).
 - **I Tim 2:3-4** "This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."
 - **Mark 3:31-35** Brother/mother – those who do the will of God
 - **I John 2:15-17** "the one that does the will of God lives forever"
 - God's will is that you know Christ, next that you tell others about Him!

2. It is God's will that you be SPIRIT-CONTROLLED!
 - **Eph 5:16-18**... don't be stupid/foolish... **James 1:5** ask the Lord for wisdom!
 - **Rom 8:9, I Cor 6:19** – All Christians have the H.S. indwelling them
 - **II Pet 1:3, Col 2:10** "don't lack anything" "in Him made complete"
 - Be under the control of the Spirit rather than the influence of anything else (**Eph 5:18**)
 - i. See **Eph 5:22-6:9** – How Spirit-filled people behave/live
 - ii. See **Col 3** – Same list linked to "word of Christ richly dwelling in you" (**3:16**)
 - iii. Be Saturated with the Word of God (**Rom 12:1-2**)

3. It is God's will that you be SANCTIFIED
 - **I Thes 4:3-7**
 - (1) Stay away from sexual sin [set apart wholly for God]
 - (2) Subdue evil passions [nothing should control you besides the Lord – lust/dress/gluttony]
 - (3) Treat others fairly [in mistreating others, you really despise God]
 - Called to holiness/purity

4. It is God's will that you SUBMIT
 - Something given freely, not something coerced or demanded!
 - Living according to God's Order... Submission to God's magnificent design!
 - **I Pet 2:11-15** Best Citizen possible... silence critics... obey the law
 - **Eph 5:20-6:8** Family/Work (*looked at this earlier!*)
 - **Acts 4:18-20** Only if in direct violation of God's commands do we disobey

5. It is God's will that you SUFFER
 - **I Pet 3:17, 4:1-6, 13-15, 19, 5:10** Suffer for doing right
 - **II Tim 3:12, Phil 1:29, Col 1:24** Losing your life in service to God/Christ is Gain!
 - Remember we aren't offensive, the MESSAGE (gospel) is! Confront the world w/ Truth!

6. It is God's will that you SAY THANKS, pray w/o ceasing, and rejoice always!

- **I Thes 5:16-18** “Rejoice always; ¹⁷ pray without ceasing; ¹⁸ in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. In everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus”