

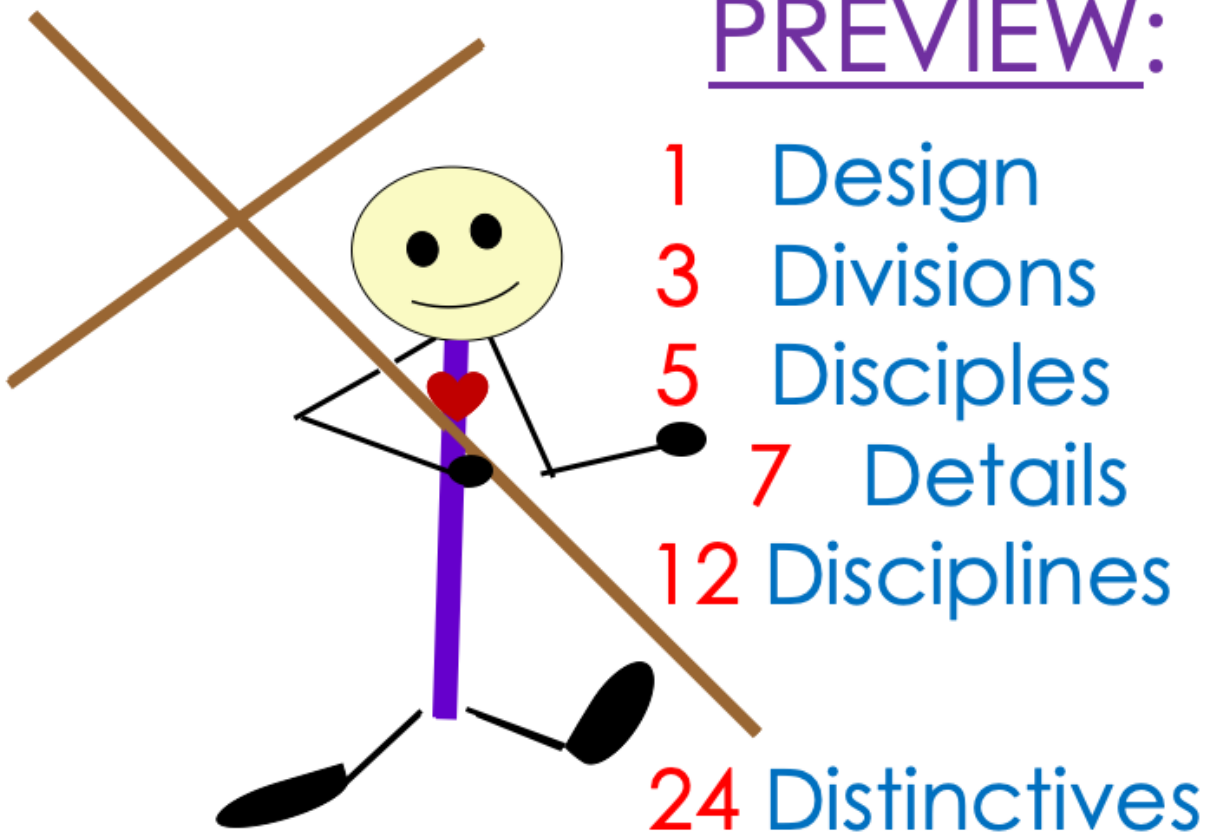


The
FLOW
Adult CURRICULUM

#10
FOUNDATIONS
John 3:9
(Come And See Christianity book pages 34-41)

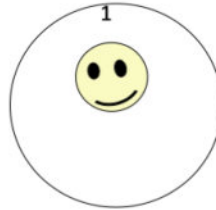
The FLOW

PREVIEW:



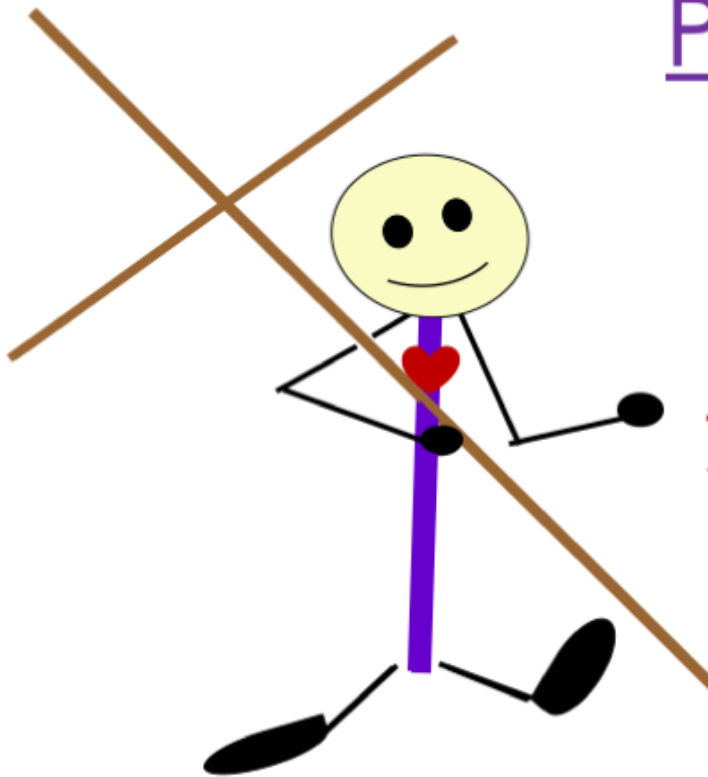
SECTION FOUR: 7 Details

The
HEAD

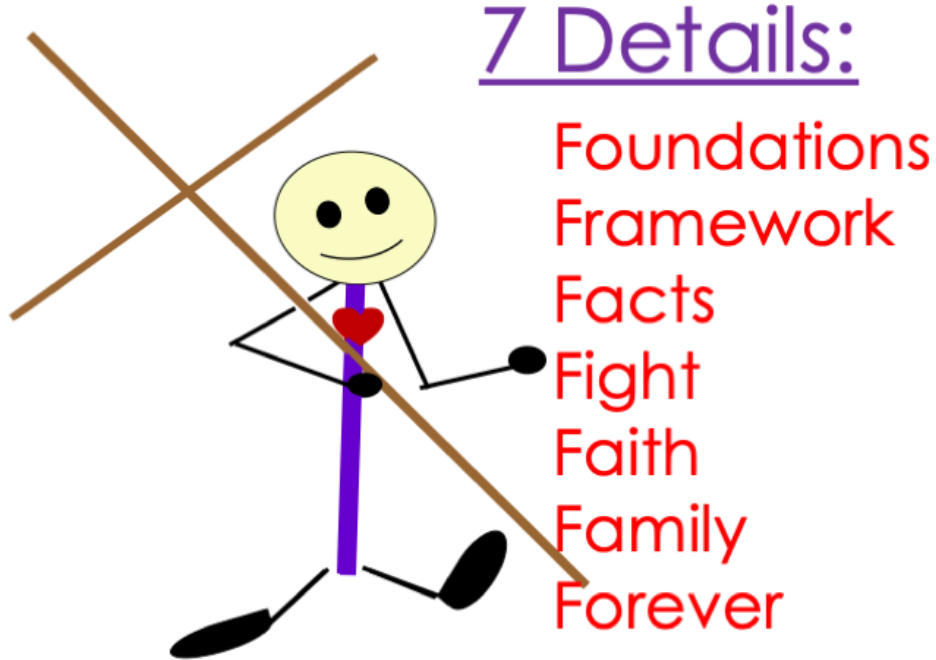


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PREVIEW:



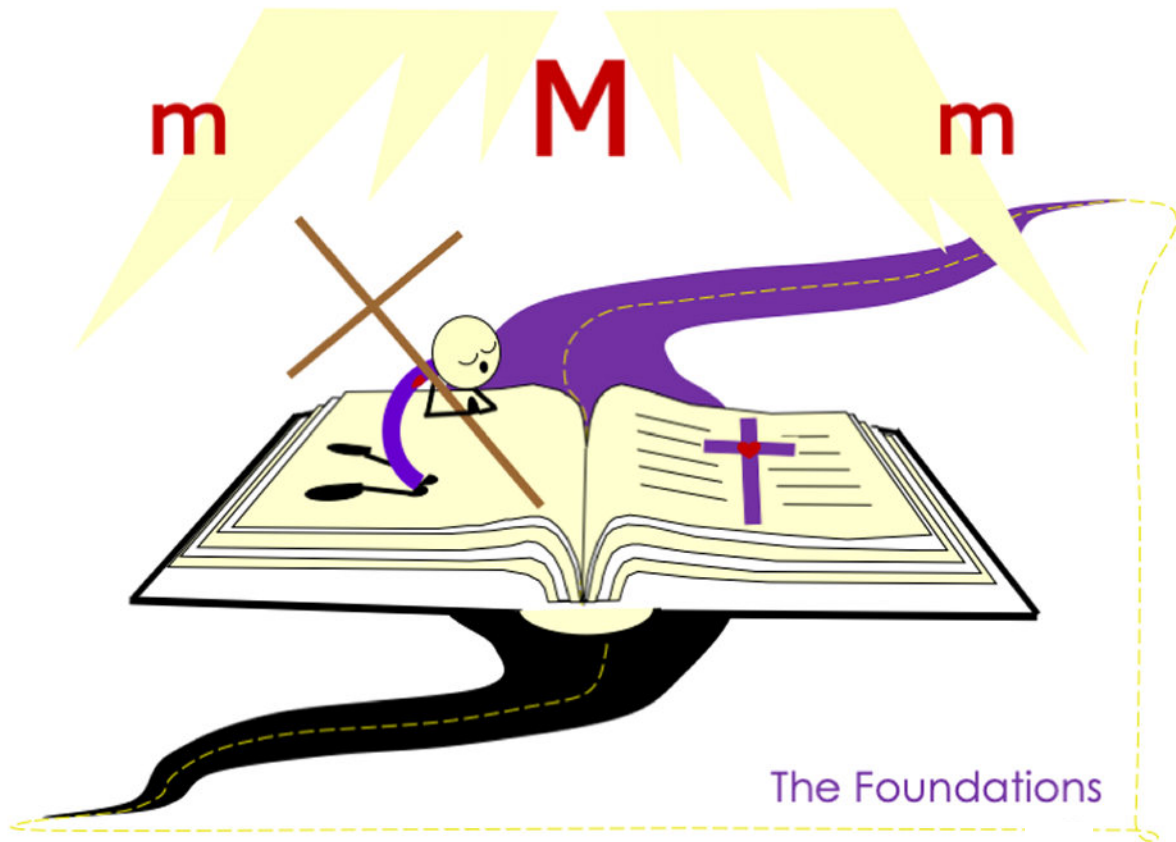
7 Details



7 DETAILS: The divine is in the details... Here we have what we also call **The Fundamentals**, that which explains the core & comprehensive truths of Christianity, as well as a biblical worldview.

The FUNDAMENTALS

We have described the 7
“details” as 7 “Fundamentals,”
each one beginning with
the letter “F” ...to help you
to remember them :-)



The FOUNDATIONS:

God's Word

God's Will

God's Way

each come together to form
the foundation of all that
Christianity believes
and **hopes** to **BE-come**.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17so that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

INTRO:

Welcome to Come And See Christianity's section four, "**The DETAILS.**" At this point, we have already established in sections 1-3 that Almighty God has "1 Divine DESIGN" (found in His authentic biblical worldview) for all of creation. Next, we addressed the fact that every human being is made up of "3 DIVISIONS," their HEAD, HEART, and HANDS (also known as their beliefs, their beloved, and their behaviors). From there, we moved on to the "5 DISCIPLES," the LOST, LOVERS, LEARNERS, LEADERS, and LIFERS, which proved that Christianity accounts for, with definitions and descriptions, ALL people... past, present, and future, from ALL parts of the world – bar none.

With our Creator and all His image-bearing (Genesis 1:27) creatures accounted for, the next logical step on the narrow path of understanding will concentrate on the sure-footedness of core, non-negotiable, and eternally essential content. In short, **we need to know what we need to know.**

To that end, The DETAILS will define and describe, in a broad and biblical context, (7) seven progressive principles of God's truth in love (Ephesians 4:15) that serve to engage, explain, equip, empower, and exemplify the fundamentals of Christianity. Herein, we will unveil and unpack a comprehensive summary and cohesive overview of God's biblical blueprint for understanding His created reality. Having said that, in moving forward, to help paint the fuller portrait of genuine Christianity, each DETAIL will receive its own lesson, beginning here with **The FOUNDATIONS.**

PRAYER:

LORD, we seek to bless You with all that is within us. Help us here, we pray, to be that blessing as we come to better understand You and Your eternal truth in love (Ephesians 4:15). Help us to see with Your eyes and love with Your love, all that You would reveal to us through Your Word, Your will, and Your ways. May we grow in our grasp of Your realities, Your means of restoration, and Your mission of reproduction. In the holy name of Jesus, we pray. Amen and Amen

CONTEXT:

Macro

When it comes to learning about Christ, Christianity, and the biblical Church, relatively speaking, a thousand lifetimes filled with devoted study would not dig through the endless depths of God's divine grace, gospel, and glory. Frankly, (and thankfully) the fullness of Creator Christ is far beyond our ability to fully comprehend. To quote Him directly and prove the point, hear Almighty God, "Where were you when I laid the earth's foundations?" (Job 38:4). In short, we need to maintain a sense of genuine awe and reverent fear (1 Peter 1:17) when it comes to loving and learning about the LORD.

At the same time, the character, commands, and commissioning of the living God, Christianity's Christ and King, compel us to draw near to Him (James 4:8) with the promise that He will draw near to us. Moreover, the God of the Bible promises that He has miraculously given all true Christians "everything needed for life and godliness" (2 Peter 1:3), which includes an anointed understanding of His Word, will, and ways (1 Corinthians 2:14).

NOTE: the unification and blessed tension of the two paragraphs above can be harmonized when one realizes how these truths compliment each other. On one hand, there are (7) fundamental details that share a progressive and straight-forward, principle-based explanation of Christianity. And, at the same time, all (7) seven have a divine depth and truth-filled treasure that is both bottomless and absolutely priceless – Amen!

Christianity's 7 DETAILS or FUNDAMENTALS:

1. ***The FOUNDATIONS***
2. ***The FRAMEWORK***
3. ***The FACTS***
4. ***The FIGHT***
5. ***The FAITH***
6. ***The FAMILY***
7. ***FOREVER***

*I seek the will of the Spirit of God through or in connection with the Word of God.
The Spirit and the Word must be combined. If I look to the Spirit alone
without the Word, I lay myself open to great delusions also.*

- George Mueller

Micro

The FOUNDATIONS of Christianity are arguably the most important of all the DETAILS because, by definition, all the other DETAILS (and in fact all of reality) are defined, applied, and built upon these (3) three unified and interdependent essentials.

Further, see that the trifold FOUNDATIONS are definitively sequential.

1st God's Word

2nd God's Will

3rd God's Way(s)

It is God's Word, and only God's Word, that can be trusted without hesitation or reservation when it comes to identifying and clarifying God's Will and Ways. Again, when it comes to defining and describing right, wrong, and creation's designed relationships, God and His Word are always our ultimate Authority.

Having said that, as we will see, while there is more to God's Word than meets the eye, it is God's Word that boldly declares, repeatedly and consistently (cf. Genesis 3:15 and John 3:16), God's Will. In fact, if anyone were to profess to know the Will of God without having confirmation from God's Word and/or alignment with God's Word, they would be, at best, spiritually speculating (guessing) and, at worst, deceived or deceptive. To be clear, **there is no confirmable, mistake-proof access to God's Will outside of an accurate interpretation and/or application of God's Word.**

Continuing on and following the FOUNDATION's previously noted sequential order, God's Ways must also originate in and be confirmed by God's Word and then God's Will. See here the missional genius and full-proof validation system that the Lord designed. Within God's Word, we find God's Will, which gives us our Christian "bullseyes." Next, our pursuits and efforts to glorify God are to be undertaken biblically and faithfully, which is to say, **"In order to truly fulfill God's Will, we MUST biblically obey God's Ways."**

Think about it this way, it is not just "what" we do... but "why" and "how" we do it that matters. Like another three-legged stool example, there is a need for all three legs, God's Word, God's Will, and God's Ways, to be in place for authentic and healthy Christianity to "stand" and BE lived out. In other words, it is God's Word (the Holy Bible) that establishes the blueprint and guardrails of Christianity. Within the biblical and defining guardrails of God's Word, His macro and micro "bullseyes," also known as His Will in any given situation, can be found. Stated differently, **God's Will is ALWAYS found within the guardrails of His Word** because He will NEVER contradict Himself (2 Timothy 2:13).

Lastly, according to His Word (1 Samuel 16:7; 1 Corinthians 11:1; 2 Timothy 2:13) **God's Ways must be followed if His Will is to be obeyed.**

Message

The Word of God is not to be used as a lottery; nor is it designed to instruct us by shreds and scraps, which, detached from their proper places, have no determinate import; but it is to furnish us with just principles, right apprehensions to regulate our judgments and affections, and thereby to influence and direct our conduct.

- John Newton

Unless I am convicted by Scripture and plain reason. I do not accept the authority of popes and councils, for they have contradicted each other - my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and will not recant anything, for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. Here I stand, I cannot do otherwise.

God help me. Amen.

- Martin Luther

BIG IDEA: God's Word, Will, and Ways come together to form the FOUNDATION of all that Christianity believes and hopes to become.

PREVIEW:

1. God's Word
2. God's Will
3. God's Way(s)

TEXT:

John 3:9

"How can this be?"

All that I am I owe to Jesus Christ, revealed to me in His divine Book.

- David Livingstone

1. God's WORD

Illustration:

In declaring his allegiance to Christ and his confidence in Christianity, C.S. Lewis famously said: *I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else. The Christian does not think God will love us because we are good, but that God will make us good because He loves us.*

Amen! A discerning reader will realize that to embrace Lewis' insights is to also accept the light source that gave rise to his light analogy... To be sure, while it was the Son of God who gave Lewis his sunrise (Psalm 19:1), it was the Word of God, empowered and applied by the Spirit of God, that explained to Lewis what he saw and experienced in the light.

The Scriptures teach us the best way of living, the noblest way of suffering and the most comfortable way of dying.

- John Flavel

The Holy Scriptures are our letters from home.

- Augustine

Explanation:

There are (3) overarching aspects of God's Word that true Christianity upholds and healthy Christians champion. First, there is the understanding that God's Word is actually GOD's Word, NOT a mere collection of man's religious and philosophical musings.

To go one step further, Christianity declares the truth in love of the Incarnate Word ("*the Word became flesh and dwelt among us*" – John 1:14) and His name is Jesus, the Christ. At the same time, the Holy Bible is upheld as God's Inspired and Inerrant (without error) written Word. Thus, the Almighty (in Person and print) is represented and present every time Christians speak of God's Word.

With the Creator and Christ now established in God's Word, it should come as no surprise that Christianity is committed to God's Word (Bible) being accepted as Absolute Truth (John 14:6), as well as the world's only universal and ultimate Authority (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

All the created in creation are subject to the Creator's Word!

A. ALMIGHTY

- a. The Word of God is God... His name is Jesus!

John 1:1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

- b. God's Word is the Word of God!

2 Peter 1:20-21

But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

B. ABSOLUTELY **Absolute Truth exists in God and God's Word!**

In Jesus' High Priestly Prayer, Jesus prays to His Father, saying, "Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth" ([John 17:17](#)). In this verse, Jesus communicates two important facts: God's Word is truth—God's Word equals truth—and it's by that truth that God [sanctifies](#) us, or sets us apart for holy service to Himself... Further, God's written and living Word will sustain believers as they are in the world ([John 17:14](#)).

In the High Priestly Prayer in [John 17](#), Jesus confirms... that believers will be rejected by the world for believing "Your word is truth," but believers are also assured joy, God's protection from the evil one, and sanctification by God's Word ([John 17:13-19](#)).

The Old and New Testaments both affirm that the words recorded in the Bible are God's words and that they are true. Since God cannot lie, His Word is truth: "As for God, his way is perfect: The Lord's word is flawless" ([Psalm 18:30](#)). Since God is eternal and unchanging, His Word is always the same: "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away" ([Matthew 24:35](#); cf. [Isaiah 40:8](#))...

Jesus said, "Your word is truth." When we look at the Bible, we see truth. The Bible does not merely contain the truth; it is the truth. Every word is truth, in every part of the Bible. "The words of the LORD are flawless, like silver purified in a crucible, like gold refined seven times" ([Psalm 12:6](#))... How we respond to God's written Word and the Word made flesh has an eternal impact on us...

- GotQuestions.org

C. AUTHORITY

God's Word is absolutely crystal clear when it comes to Scripture's divine AUTHORITY and God's command that His Word be faithfully obeyed... without exception or excuse.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

*All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correction, and for training in righteousness, **17**so that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

Matthew 28:18-20

*Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **19**Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20**and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

The idea of sola Scriptura is that there is only one written source of divine revelation, which can never be placed on a parallel status with confessional statements, creeds, or the traditions of the church. Scripture alone has the authority to bind the conscience precisely because only Scripture is the written revelation of almighty God.

- R. C. Sproul

Application:

We need to see, believe, approach, accept, and obey God's Word with a fundamental understanding of the Word's Person (John 1:1-18), power (Hebrews 4:12), purposes (2 Timothy 3:16-17 and John 17:17), and promises (Psalm 119 in total and John 3:36). Amen. ALL of humanity is called to learn, love, and live God's Word, will, and ways... no more, no less, no matter what!

Nobody ever outgrows Scripture; the book widens and deepens with our years.

- Charles Spurgeon

2. God's WILL

Illustration:

Have you ever thought you had found the perfect gift to give someone, only to later realize that you were, in reality, WAY off in your assumptions? Sadly, it happens... Why? Answer: because, regardless of the work, effort, sincerity, intuitions, or intentions of the giver, they did not know the true will and want-to of the one whom they were seeking to bless. In such cases, take heart, there is a simple, humbling solution. Go to the one whose will and want-to you hope to please. Then, ask and actively listen to their expressed desires.

It is God's perfect Word that reveals God's precise Will and Ways.

Explanation:

We may be certain that whatever God has made prominent in His Word, He intended to be conspicuous (obvious and attracting special attention) in our lives.

- Charles Spurgeon

Ephesians 4:14-15

*As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; **15**but speaking the **truth in love**, we are **to grow up** in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ,*

A. **KNOW** God's Glory

1. We humans were created for God's glory! (Isaiah 43:7)
2. We are to do all things for God's glory! (1 Corinthians 10:31)
3. We are to "shine" at all times for God's glory! (Matthew 5:16)

B. **GROW** In Holiness

1. We grow in part by knowing The holy God! (Isaiah 6:3)
2. We grow as we become more holy like Him! (1 Peter 1:16)
3. We grow in holiness by the grace of God! (John 17:11)

C. **GO On Mission!**

1. We are commanded to “Go make disciples!” (Matt. 28:18-20)
2. We are empowered to “BE witnesses/Church!” (Acts 1:8)
3. We are commissioned to GO in Christlikeness! (John 20:21)

Application:

Christianity calls for the knowing, growing, and going of God’s people, all in the context of BE-ing guided by God’s Spirit, within the guardrails of God’s Word, while aiming at the macro and micro bullseyes of God’s Will...

As we will see next, in principle, the same exacting standards that are to be righteously applied to God’s Word and Will also apply to God’s Ways. In other words, whenever a person or people are out of line with God’s Ways, by definition, they are out of God’s Will, which is the direct result of them going against God’s Word (James 1:22-25).

Lastly, a brief word of distinction and clarification is warranted here. **It is important to note that God’s Will has (2) different but related definitions and applications.** The first is what we have focused on above; namely, the “Commanded Will of God,” which can be obeyed or disobeyed (Matthew 7:21; 1 Thess. 4:3 & 5:18; 1 John 2:17).

The second is the “Sovereign Will of God,” which is His decreed and providential... His “no matter what” will that no one and nothing can thwart or change (Matthew 26:39; Acts 4:27-28; Ephesians 1:11; Daniel 4:35).

In the end, we are able to rest in the fact and eternal good news that everything ultimately comes under the Sovereign, foreknown, good Will of God. In short, Christianity holds and shares the stabilizing truth that says, “If it is your reality, it is, at some level, God’s Will”... for He is sovereign over ALL and good at ALL times!

We must allow the Word of God to confront us, to disturb our security, to undermine our complacency and to overthrow our patterns of thought and behavior.

- John Stott

Romans 8:28

And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

Romans 12:1-2

Therefore, I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. [2](#)And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Proverbs 21:1

*The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD;
He turns it wherever He will.*

A readiness to believe every promise implicitly, to obey every command unhesitatingly, to stand perfect and complete in all the will of God, is the only true spirit of Bible study.

- Andrew Murray

3. God's WAY(s)

Illustration:

When it comes to knowing, aligning-with, and implementing God's Way(s), one of the most valuable lessons I have ever learned can be illustrated and explained with a couple basic building and geometry insights that compliment each another. To that end, **consider the constructive truths that a "plumb-line" and "2 dots" can teach us...**

For those who do not know, a "plumb-line" is a string with a weight at one end that is used, with the help of gravity, to establish a straight line. In the building industry, being able to see and verify vertical integrity is a must; hence, the value of a plumb-line. Similarly, while it is impossible to measure the integrity of a line with the use of a single dot, whenever a second dot is added to the evaluation process, something powerful happens! Think about it... The establishment of a straight line (connecting the "2 dots") can ALWAYS be measured when a second dot is added to the evaluation process.

The invaluable theological and missional lesson that I learned from the "plumb-line" and "2 dots" insights is as follows... When God's Word and God's Will are rightly established and applied in full context, God's Way is guaranteed to be found in their biblically extended "plumb-line."

Furthermore, if someone is honestly seeking to faithfully obey the Lord, the “2 dots” principle could lead them to biblical revelation. Remember, if one’s “first dot” is an accurate establishment of God’s Word, and their “second dot” is a righteously consistent “bullseye,” also known as God’s Will... then, God’s Way(s) MUST, by definition of a “straight” line, be in direct and exacting alignment with the first “2 dots.” Consequently, it stands to reason, **the ONLY guaranteed source of an accurate interpretation and application of God’s Way(s) is to be found in the overflow of God’s revealed Will, as shared, declared, and aligned in God’s Holy Word.**

Explanation:

Sometimes the best way to explain God’s Word, Will, & Way(s) is to get out of His way and let Him speak for Himself...

Isaiah 55:8-9

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” declares the LORD. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

*All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correction, and for training in righteousness, **17**so that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

Matthew 28:18-20

*Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **19**Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20**and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

Proverbs 3:5-6

*Trust in the LORD with all your heart
And do not lean on your own understanding.
In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He will make your paths straight.*

The fanaticism which discards the Scripture, under the pretense of resorting to immediate revelations is subversive of every principle of Christianity. For when they boast extravagantly of the Spirit, the tendency is always to bury the Word of God so they may make room for their own falsehoods.

- John Calvin

Application:

When Jesus commanded His disciples to “follow” Him, He meant it. When He commanded His disciples to teach the rest of the world (literally) to “obey EVERYTHING” that He commanded, He meant it. When He repeatedly contrasted the corrupted ways of the world (James 4:4) vs. the Christ-like ways of His followers and family (Matthew 5:2-11; Galatians 5:22-23; Ephesians 6:10-20; etc.), He meant it.

John 7:13-14

*“Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. ¹⁴For the gate is narrow and **the way** is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.*

Do not think for a second that you can be following, obeying, or righteously representing God’s Way(s) if and when your attitudes and/or actions are not in the plumb-line of God’s established Word and Will.

*The world changes - circumstances change, we change –
but God's Word never changes!*

- Warren Wiersbe

REVIEW:

The Scripture is both the breeder and feeder of grace. How is the convert born, but by "the word of truth"? (James 1:18). How doth he grow, but by "the sincere milk of the Word."? (I Peter 2:2).

- Thomas Watson

**God’s Word, Will, and Ways come together to form the FOUNDATION
of all that Christianity believes and hopes to become.**

CLOSE:

But the challenge is always this: Are men and women going to allow the Word of God to sit in judgment on their puny minds, or are they going to make their puny minds the judges of the Word of God?

- Alistair Begg

When the heart full of God's love can draw on the mind full of God's word, timely blessings flow from the mouth.

- John Piper

For What?

*When you examine the Word of God,
the Word of God examines you.*

- Jack Wellman

If you want a wonderful experience, take your New Testament and use a concordance to look up the two little words, but God. See how many times human resources have been brought to an utter end; despair has gripped the heart and pessimism and gloom has settled upon a people; and there is nothing that can be done. Then see how the Spirit of God writes in luminous letters, but God, And the whole situation changes into victory.

- Ray C. Stedman

So What?

If thou sin, the word of God is thy adversary. It is the adversary of thy will till it become the author of thy salvation.

- Augustine

*Imagine if we started raising generations of children who stood uncompromisingly on the Word of God, knew how to defend the Christian faith, could answer the skeptical questions of this age, and had a fervor to share the gospel from the authority of God's Word with whomever they met!
This could change the world.*

- Ken Ham

Now What?

Holiness is the habit of being of one mind with God, according as we find His mind described in Scripture. It is the habit of agreeing in God's judgment, hating what He hates, loving what He loves, and measuring everything in this world by the standard of His Word.

- J. C. Ryle

PRAYER

Dear heavenly Father, thank You so much for the Truth and Love of Your Word, will, and ways. Please help us to absorb and apply ALL that You have shared and commanded in the Bible. May our heads be infilled with Your defining Scriptures, for the express purpose of informing, inspecting, and inspiring our sanctified hearts and serving hands.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen and Amen

Related SERMONS:

"Year Of The Word"

John 3:9

January 1, 2012

Sermon Series: The Word of God