

1 Pet. 1:1-2: Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who are elect exiles of the dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, & Bithynia, according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ & for sprinkling with his blood: May grace & peace be multiplied to you.

Intro: We are in the midst of an introduction to 1 Peter; 1) Peter; 2) His audience – the elect

Of God's Purpose of Grace: We believe that Election is the eternal purpose of God, according to which He graciously regenerates, sanctifies, & saves sinners; that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end; that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely free, wise, holy, & unchangeable; that it utterly excludes boasting, & promotes humility, love, prayer, praise, trust in God, & active imitation of His free mercy; that it encourages the use of means in the highest degree; that it may be ascertained by its effects in all who truly believe the gospel; that it is the foundation of Christian assurance; & that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves demands & deserves the utmost diligence.

God loves you forever, God chose you forever, & God will never let you go forever!

1. Common Objections To The Doctrine Of Election

a. Objection #1: Election contradicts free will: One might wrongly say: “God gave us free will; in order for us to truly love, it has to be free; God doesn’t want a bunch of robots loving Him!”

1) The Bible: Should I have been concerned about calling us robots or puppets last week?

- **Isa. 29:16:** Shall the potter be regarded as the clay, that the thing made should say of its maker, “He did not make me”; or the thing formed say of him who formed it, “He has no understanding”?

- **Isa. 45:9:** Woe to him who strives with him who formed him, a pot among earthen pots! Does the clay say to him who forms it, “What are you making?” or “Your work has no handles”?

- **Isa. 64:8:** But now, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, & you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.

- **Jer. 18:1-6:** The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: "Arise, & go down to the potter's house, & there I will let you hear my words." So I went down to the potter's house, & there he was working at his wheel. & the vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, & he reworked it into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to do. Then the word of the LORD came to me: "O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter has done? declares the LORD. Behold, like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel.

- **Rom. 9:20–21:** But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, “Why have you made me like this?” Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use & another for dishonorable use?

- **Isa. 40:15:** the nations are like a drop from a bucket, & are accounted as the dust on the scales

- **Isa. 10:5-7, 12, 15:** Ah, Assyria, the rod of my anger; the staff in their hands is my fury! Against a godless nation I send him, & against the people of my wrath I command him, to take spoil &

seize plunder, & to tread them down like the mire of the streets. But he does not so intend, & his heart does not so think; but it is in his heart to destroy, & to cut off nations not a few . . . ¹² When the Lord has finished all his work on Mount Zion & on Jerusalem, he will punish the speech of the arrogant heart of the king of Assyria & the boastful look in his eyes . . . ¹⁵ Shall the axe boast over him who hews with it, or the saw magnify itself against him who wields it? As if a rod should wield him who lifts it, or as if a staff should lift him who is not wood!

- **Prov. 21:1:** The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; he turns it wherever he will.

2) The Confession: Election is “perfectly consistent with the free agency of man” - We are free to do what we want to do, we do what we desire to do. We make choices! I have decided to follow Jesus! I have decided to follow Jesus! But we choose the Lord because He chose us first!

3) The Problem: Apart from God's grace in Christ, our desires & wants are enslaved – we are all born enslaved to sin, dead spiritually, & even hostile toward God.

- **Gen. 6:5:** The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, & that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

- **Rom. 6:20:** When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness.

- **Rom. 3:10-12:** None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.

- **Eph. 2:1-3:** you were dead in the trespasses & sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience - among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body & the mind, & were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

- **Rom. 8:7:** For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. **GOSPEL!**

b. Objection #2: Election is not fair: One might wrongly say: “It's not fair for God to choose to save some & not to save others! Everyone should have an equal opportunity to be saved!”

History shows us that not everyone has an equal opportunity to hear the Gospel, so everyone doesn't have an equal opportunity to be saved. (Those born thousands of years before Christ's birth; those who've never heard about Jesus) – we should be burdened to go tell them!

- **Acts 17:26:** he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods & the boundaries of their dwelling place (Pastor who became an atheist because he noticed most religious beliefs are regional)

Fair is everyone in hell. Fair is God getting the most glory. (Piper: Is God For Us Or For Himself?)

c. Objection #3: Election is not loving: One might wrongly say: “It's not loving for God not to choose some & send them to hell.”

We must learn what love is by looking to God's Word. **1 John 4:8:** God is love.

- God is good; God is just; God will & must punish sin & sinners! It's loving to be just & righteous & good!

d. Objection #4: Election is not Biblical: One might wrongly say: "The Bible doesn't teach election & totally contradicts what you are saying about election": **Ezek. 33:11:** Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way & live.

1) What about verses that say God desires all to be saved? 1 Tim. 2:1-4: First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, & thanksgivings be made for all people, ² for kings & all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful & quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. ³ This is good, & it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all people to be saved & to come to the knowledge of the truth.

- **2 Pet. 3:9:** The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

Two aspects of the one Divine will: 1) Will of decree; 2) Will of command

Acts 4:27-28: for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.

There is an aspect (will of command) that God did not delight in the crucifixion of His Son: **Prov. 17:15:** He who justifies the wicked & he who condemns the righteous are both alike an abomination to the LORD.

God did not delight in the betrayal of His Son! God did not delight in Pilate condemning His Son unjustly! God did not delight in the Jewish people crying crucify Him! And rejecting their Messiah! That is great evil!

But there is also an aspect (will of decree) in which God did delight in the cross:

Eph. 5:2: Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

In the same way, there is an aspect (God's will of command) that He does not delight in the death of the wicked because He has commanded them to repent & trust and obey Him, & He loves all His creation!

But there is also an aspect (God's will of decree) in which He has only elected the elect to be saved because of His purposes in election for our good & for His glory! And there's an aspect it which God does delight in the death & punishment of the wicked because it glorifies His glorious justice: **Deut. 28:63:** as the LORD took delight in doing you good & multiplying you, so the LORD will take delight in bringing ruin upon you & destroying you.

3) Other verses: John 3:16; 1 John 2:2: He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

- **Acts 13:48:** when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing & glorifying the word of the Lord, & as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.

e. What about election unto damnation?: 1 Pet. 2:7-8: So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,"⁸ & "A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

- **Jude 4:** For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality & deny our only Master & Lord, Jesus Christ.

- **Rom. 9:** Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated; Has mercy & hardens; Raised up Pharaoh, etc.

- **Rom. 11:7-10:** What then? Israel failed to obtain what it was seeking. The elect obtained it, but the rest were hardened,⁸ as it is written, "God gave them a spirit of stupor, eyes that would not see & ears that would not hear, down to this very day."⁹ & David says, "Let their table become a snare & a trap, a stumbling block & a retribution for them;¹⁰ let their eyes be darkened so that they cannot see, & bend their backs forever."

- **Prov. 16:4:** The LORD has made everything for its purpose, even the wicked for the day of trouble

- **Mk. 4:11-12:** he said to them, "To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside everything is in parables, so that "they may indeed see but not perceive, & may indeed hear but not understand, lest they should turn & be forgiven."

f. I just don't like Election: We must submit our likes & desires to God & His Word. We have to pray that we would delight in & love what God delights in & loves!

Luke 10:21-22: In that same hour he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit & said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven & earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise & understanding & revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father, & no one knows who the Son is except the Father, or who the Father is except the Son & anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."

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2. Some Reasons The Doctrine Of Election Is Important

a. Election is Biblical: Romans 9; Romans 8; Ephesians 1; God chose Abram; He chose Isaac not Ishmael; He chose Jacob, not Esau; He chose Israel over all the other nations; God elects!

b. Election is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness: Jon. 2:9: Salvation comes from the LORD

c. Election utterly excludes boasting, & promotes humility, love, prayer, praise, trust in God, & active imitation of His free mercy: Loved people love others!

d. Election encourages the use of means in the highest degree: We pray because God is sovereign! We evangelize because God is sovereign! We work hard by God's grace because God is sovereign! We show free mercy to others because God has so graciously shown free mercy to us!

Wrong reasoning about evangelism: My neighbor is either elect or not elect. If he's not elect, there's no reason to tell him the Gospel because he'll never believe (you don't know!). If he is elect, then he will certainly be saved, so there's no need for me to tell him the Gospel either. (No!)

- 1) God commands you to tell people the Gospel (Our church's mission statement)
- 2) God ordains the end & the means to that end: **Illustration: Acts 27:24:** Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar. & behold, God has granted you all those who sail with you.
- **Acts 27:31:** Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, "Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved."
- 3) Telling others about Jesus glorifies God!
- 4) Why would you not want to be used by God to help bring all God's elect safely to heaven?
- **Acts 18:9-10:** the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, "Do not be afraid, but go on speaking & do not be silent, for I am with you, & no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people."

e. Election is the foundation of Christian assurance: Beloved, God has loved you with an everlasting love! He chose You to be His forever before the foundation of the world! Your eternal security is not based on your free will! It's based on God's unshakable, unchanging, invincible, everlasting love for you that He chose to lavish on you before time began! And God is not only sovereign over who is saved, but He is sovereign over everything! He works all for your good!

f. We are commanded to make our calling & election sure: 2 Pet. 1:10: Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling & election sure, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.

- **What qualities? 2 Pet. 1:5-9:** For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, & virtue with knowledge, & knowledge with self-control, & self-control with steadfastness, & steadfastness with godliness, & godliness with brotherly affection, & brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins

Jesus had all of these qualities perfectly! & He died & rose again so that you can too!

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To The Elect Dear Peter Wrote
Christ Died For Them As God's Scapegoat
Then Rose Alive And Slit Death's Throat
You're Chosen, Loved God Will Devote

All His Power To Promote
Humility And End Pride's Gloat
Our God We Praise Oh World Take Note!