

God's Will

1 Thessalonians 4:3a

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-3a

Perspectives on God's Will:

1.) God's decretive will

"9 Remember the former things of old, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, 10 Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, 'My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure,'" (Isaiah 46:9-10)

"There are many plans in a man's heart, Nevertheless the Lord's counsel—that will stand" (Proverbs 19:21)

*"**13** Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit"; **14** whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. **15** Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that."" (James 3:13-15)*

2.) God's desired will

*"**23** Do I have any pleasure at all that the wicked should die?" says the Lord God, "and not that he should turn from his ways and live?...**32** For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies," says the Lord God. "Therefore turn and live!" (Ezekiel 18:23, 32)*

*"**3** For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, **4** who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." (1 Timothy 2:3-4)*

"9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." (2 Peter 3:9)

3.) God's disclosed will

"5 Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; 6 not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart," (Ephesians 6:5-6)

"2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." (Romans 12:2)

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.

Big Idea: Our Sanctification is the Will of God

"For this is the will of God, your sanctification" (1 Thessalonians 4:3a)

Read 1 Thessalonians 3:13

Examining the Text:

1.) God's Will for His People is Holiness

"...Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel: 4 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself. 5 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. 6 And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation...." (Exodus 19:4-6)

"You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy." (Leviticus 19:1)

2.) What did Holiness Look Like For Ancient Israel?

- A.) The Law Illustrated the Need to be Holy
- B.) God Gave Laws that Served as External Markers

*"**13** But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. **14** For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, **16** and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity." (Ephesians 2:13-16)*

3.) What does Holiness Look Like For the New Testament Church?

- A.) External Markers Have Been Removed
- B.) The Need for Holiness Has Not Changed

4.) The CruX of the Problem

- A.) Conforming is not an Option
- B.) Isolating is not an Option

5.) The Solution to the Problem

- A.) Our Sanctification is God's decretive, desired, and disclosed will

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:1

*"**29** For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. **30** Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified." (Romans 8:29-30)*

B.) We are Swimming in the Strength of the Lord