

Merciful Mystery or Predetermined Programming: In Defense of the Doctrine of Predestination

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This paper deals with the mysterious relationship between man's free will and God's divine will in the doctrine of predestination. For centuries, humans have debated this relationship because there seems to be an irreconcilable dichotomy between man's ability to make his own decisions and God's sovereignty over creation. Different cultures and philosophers examined man's free will and divine will leading to a variety of definitions. Their questions and opinions show that many people have deeply pondered whether they have the ability to control their own lives. The Bible outlines the correct view of man's free will and God's divine will through the doctrine of predestination. While it deals mostly with salvation, predestination contains the key to discovering the answer to the age-old question that has been plaguing philosophers for so many centuries: How much control do humans have over their own lives?

The scriptures teach that God predestines all human actions and decisions for the purpose of fulfilling His divine will. After understanding the Bible's teachings, it becomes clear that humans are still responsible for their actions even though God is ultimately in control.