



**What is Election?  
Selected Scriptures  
#1666 November 22, 2009 pm  
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I. Introduction

A. “What is the doctrine of election and how should we respond to it?”

1. Wayne Grudem: “Election is an act of God before creation in which he chooses some people to be saved, not on account of any foreseen merit in them, but only because of his sovereign good pleasure” (670).

B. Questions and Objections

1. The Question of Freedom: Doesn't this doctrine negate human freedom?
2. The Question of Justice: Why would God choose to save some and not all?
3. The Question of Fairness: Why would God choose one person over another?

II. Proposition

A. The doctrine of election is not to be feared; it is to be delighted in and embraced, for it is a great encouragement.

III. Preliminary Questions

A. **Context for Understanding Election-Radical Corruption (Genesis 3; 5; Romans 5:12ff).**

B. **Does the Bible teach election – that God saves a particular people for Himself?**

1. Old Testament: Genesis 17:1-8, 15-21; 28:10-17; Deuteronomy 7:6-8; 10:14-15  
a. ILLUS: Noah (Genesis 6:5-8)

2. New Testament: John 6:37-40; 8:47; 10:26-29

3. So, election is biblical. The question is how will we understand it and respond to it?

IV. The Doctrine of Election Explained

A. **Before the foundation of the world, the Father chose to save certain persons for His glory.**

1. John 6:37 - The fruit of the Father's love for the Son is our salvation. The Father made a free and sovereign decision to save a people as a gift for the Son and for His own glory from the foundation of the world.

a. These are the one's whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life (see Rev. 13:8; 17:8; 20:15; 21:27).

2. The Father's free and sovereign decision to give a people to the Son for His glory is also called in Scripture – predestination (broad term) or election (specific term):

**B. The Father's choice to save certain persons is not based on anything in them.**

1. Predestination/election is God's free choice because His decision is not based on anything in us – it is unconditional (Romans 9:10-18).

2. God chose us according to the kind intention of His will for His glory (Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12).

3. Good works are the fruit of election, not its ground (Ephesians 2:10).

V. Practical Questions

**A. How do I know if I am elect?**

1. Because you have responded to the gospel call (1 Thessalonians 1:4-5).

2. Because your continued faith and good works confirm your calling and election (2 Peter 1:5-11).

**B. Are humans genuinely free?**

1. The Father's will/desire-delight (from a human perspective): that everyone seeing the son and believing in the Son may have eternal life and be raised up by Jesus on the last day (John 6:40).

a. Predestination/election does not contravene human freedom. We do what we most want to do!

1). Humans are genuinely free and God is genuinely sovereign (John 1:12-13).

**C. Is it fair?**

1. No! It is not fair because we all deserve death and hell, but God in His mercy chose to save some.

VI. Why the doctrine of election is sweet and encouraging!

**A. The doctrine of election moves me to make much of God (true worship) and very little of myself (humility)!**

1. When you become small, God becomes great! You can't make much of yourself and much of God!

2. Making much of God - Ephesians 1:11-12 (ESV) In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.

3. Making little of self – 1 Corinthians 1:27-29 (ESV) But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.

**B. The doctrine of election secures my salvation and provides the ground for assurance (John 6:37-40; 10:27-29)!**

1. Election means to be marked out for salvation: The Father ensures elect will come to the Son (John 6:37).

**C. The doctrine of election encourages me to pursue holiness!**

1. 2 Thessalonians 2:13 (ESV) But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.
2. Romans 8:29 (ESV) For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.
3. Philippians 2:12-13 (ESV) Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

**D. The doctrine of election encourages me in prayer!**

1. John 15:16 (ESV) You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

**E. The doctrine of election encourages me in evangelism and missions!**

1. Election assures success in our mission. ALL the Father gives the Son WILL come (John 6:37)!
  - a. Paul in Corinth - Acts 18:9-10 (ESV) And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, "Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people."
2. Jesus understands that in spite of those who reject Him, His mission will not fail.
3. Jesus' mission has become our mission, and we will not fail!
  - a. Acts 13:48 (ESV) And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.
  - b. 2 Tim. 2:10 (ESV) Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

**F. The doctrine of election comforts me in the face of trials and suffering (Romans 8:28ff)!**

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