

GOD THE ABSOLUTE PERSON DETERMINES HIS PEOPLE IN CREATION

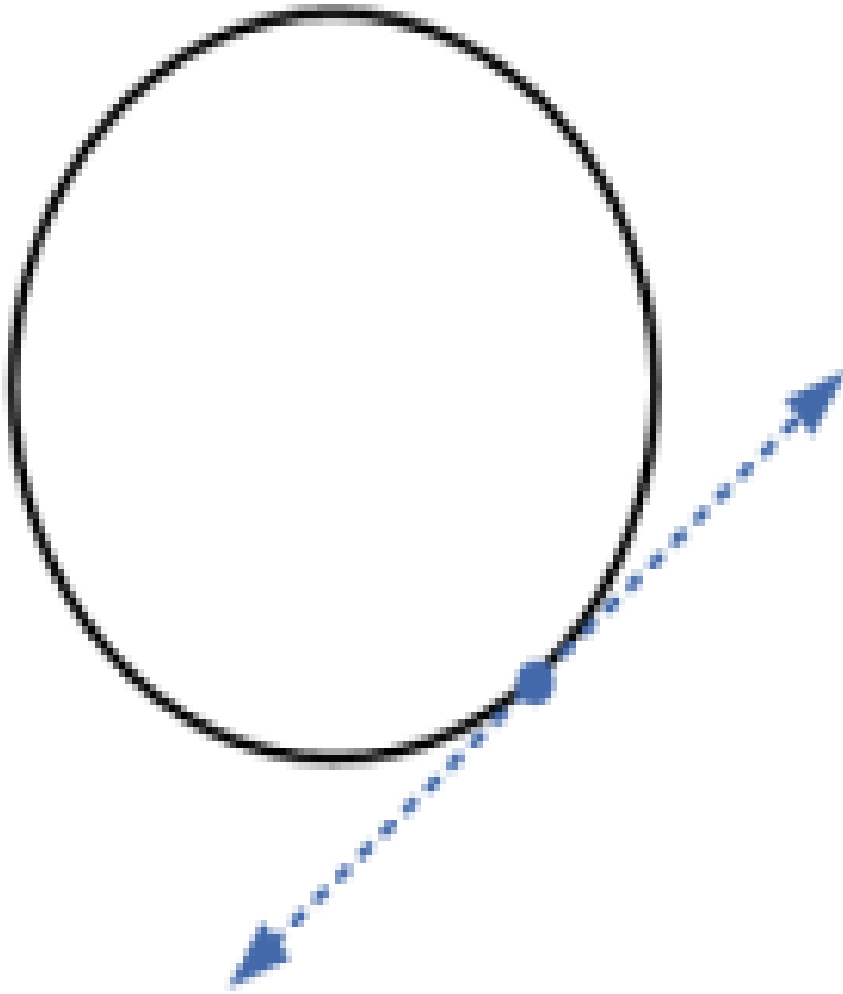
*In the same way **his** Spirit comes to the aid of our weakness. We do not even know how we ought to pray, but through our inarticulate groans the Spirit himself is pleading for us, and God who searches our inmost being knows what the Spirit means, because he pleads for God's own people in God's own way; and in everything, as we know, he co-operates for the good with those who love God and are called according to his purpose. For God knew his own before they ever were and ordained that they should be shaped to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the eldest among a large family of brothers; and it is these, so fore-ordained, whom he has also called. Those whom he called he also acquitted, and those whom he justified he has also given his splendor.*

With all this in mind, what are we to say? If God is on our side, who is against us? He did not spare his own Son, but surrendered him for us all; and with this gift how can he fail to lavish upon us all he has to give? Who will be the accuser of God's chosen ones? It is God who pronounces acquittal: then who can condemn? It is Christ - Christ who died, and, more than that, was raised from the dead - who is at God's right hand and indeed pleads our cause.

Then what can separate us from the love of Christ? Can affliction or hardship? Can persecution, hunger, nakedness, peril, or the sword? "We are being done to death for your sake all day long," as the Scripture says, "We have been treated like sheep for slaughter'- and yet, in spite of all, overwhelming victory is ours through him who loved us. For I am convinced that there is nothing in death or life, in the realm of the spirits or superhuman powers, in the world as it is or the world as it shall be, in the forces of the universe, in the heights or the depths nothing in all creation can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:26-39 NEB - edited)

1. **God determined this by his completely free and unconditional choice/to be Jesus.**
 - a. **God is not forced by circumstance.**
 - b. **God determines – ALL – he even determines his own self.**
 - i. **He is what he is by his will.**
 - ii. **He is in all the creation – cosmos – centered in Christ - (for Christ).**
 - iii. **All his acts are acts of that "will" – he elects – he determines.**
2. **God was the God he is when he created "man" in his "likeness."**
 - a. **All creation was determined by man – The Man – Jesus of Nazareth.**
 - i. **He is why creation was created – he is source and meaning.**
 - ii. **God determined to be "with man" as Jesus Christ – Son of Man.**
 - iii. **He is God for whom creation exists. *He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation, or all things in heaven and on earth were created by him- all things, whether visible or invisible, whether thrones or dominions, whether principalities or powers- all things were created through him and for him. (Col 1:15 NET)***
 - b. **God determined all in him – In no depth of the Godhead – there is no such thing as Godhead – its our word for all of God – is there any God but him. The Spirit is the Spirit of Christ (Spirit of God) – the Father is the Father of Jesus Christ – Jesus is Lord!**
 - i. **He is the reason the Universe is – if we are "In Christ" we are in God's will.**
 - ii. **All God's acts are from God's Will – God's will is God.**

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John 10:9 *I am the door; if anyone enters through me, he will be saved,*

John 14:6 *“I am the way, I am the truth, and I am the life; no one comes to the Father, except through me.*

Colossians 1:15 *He is the visible representation of the invisible God; his is the primacy over all creation. In him everything in heaven and earth were created, visible and invisible, orders of thrones of dominions, sovereignties, and powers – all things were created through him and for him.*