**Free Will & the Four-Fold Nature of Man**

Is there a conflict between God's will and man's will?

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God's sovereignty or Man's freedom

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**No**. The Scripture teaches man function in freedom under the sovereignty of God:

God's sovereignty ------------------------------------------------------------------------------------>

<----------------------------------------------------------------------------- Man's freedom

So how "free" is man? There are four stages to the nature of man’s will.

**A. Before the Fall ...**

Adam

Adam was free to choose whom he would serve.

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He was freely:

to serve God to rebel able to sin!

life death

**B. But after the fall ...**

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to sin die the heart of Adam and all mankind proceeding from

him became sinful. He cannot choose other than to

(not a "free will" but please himself and is, in reality, in bondage to his

sinful nature. He only desires to sin against God.

an expensive "won't"!) Man is

not able not to sin!

**C. Only after a man is redeemed ...**

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serve God to sin and has he been restored to choice in this life: he may

still choose to sin from time to time, in which case

forgiveness conviction he knows he is wrong (Ps. 51), or he can also choose

to serve God and obey his and obey his commandments.

repentance He is now still

able not to sin!

**D. Then, when the Christian enters fully into the presence of God ...**

life serve & all residue of sin in him and in this world are

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glorify God removed. Only then will the believer truly know

the joy of living for Christ in its perfection. He is

and forever will be

not able to sin!