

**DOES GOD HAVE TWO WILLS?
DOES HE WANT ALL PEOPLE TO BE SAVED IN ONE SENSE
AND *NOT* WANT ALL PEOPLE TO BE SAVED IN ANOTHER SENSE?
(1 TIMOTHY 2:4)**

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INTRODUCTION

1. EXPLANATION OF THE TWO WILLS OF GOD

- 1.1. Explaining God's will is complicated.
- 1.2. In a sense God has two wills: a sovereign will and a moral will.
 - 1.2.1. God's sovereign (decretive, secret/hidden) will is what He decrees.
 - 1.2.2. God's moral (preceptive, revealed) will is what He commands.
- 1.3. God's sovereign and moral wills overlap.

2. SCRIPTURAL ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE TWO WILLS OF GOD [PIPER]

- 2.1. God willed that Jesus die (Acts 2:23; 4:27–28; Isa 53:4, 10).
- 2.2. God wills the future war against the Lamb (Rev 17:16–17).
- 2.3. God wills to harden peoples' hearts (five examples).
- 2.4. God wills not to restrain evil even though he has the right to restrain evil (two examples).
- 2.5. God wills—even delights in (in one sense)—the punishment of the wicked (Deut 28:63; 2 Sam 2:25).
- 2.6. God wills (in one sense) that *not* all be saved.

3. APPLICATION OF THE TWO WILLS OF GOD

CONCLUSION

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

- Feinberg, John S. *No One Like Him: The Doctrine of God*. Edited by John S. Feinberg. Foundations of Evangelical Theology. Wheaton: Crossway, 2001. [See esp. pp. 393–98.]
- Frame, John M. *The Doctrine of God: A Theology of Lordship*. Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian & Reformed, 2002. [See esp. pp. 528–42.]
- Grudem, Wayne. *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994. [See esp. pp. 211–16, 683–84.]
- Piper, John. “Are There Two Wills in God?” Pages 107–31 in *Still Sovereign: Contemporary Perspectives on Election, Foreknowledge, and Grace*. Edited by Thomas R. Schreiner and Bruce A. Ware. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2000. This article is reprinted in the appendix of *The Pleasures of God: Meditations on God's Delight in Being God* (2d ed.; Sisters, OR: Multnomah, 2000), pp. 313–40. It is also available at http://www.desiringgod.org/resourcelibrary/Articles/ByDate/1995/1580_Are_There_Two_Wills_in_God/