

Individual Sovereignty

From: **In Defense of My Father:**

Toward a Better Understanding of the Sovereignty of God

Taken from Chapter 5: Principles of God's Sovereign Kingdom
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Before considering the topic of the sovereign principles of the kingdom of God, let's examine more closely what it means to be sovereign and how knowing God for who He really is helps us understand His kingdom—the kingdom of the Son of His love.

Sovereign is defined as “superlative in quality, of the most exalted kind, of an unqualified nature, having undisputed ascendancy, possessed of supreme power, unlimited in extent, and enjoying autonomy, thus, being free from external control.”¹

Sovereign nations, for example, decide for themselves how they will be governed and conduct their own affairs. They strongly resist being controlled by other nations.

Even so, being a sovereign nation does not mean that the nation seeks to completely control everything and everyone within its borders. That would be a dictatorship. A sovereign nation resists being controlled by outside countries, but its citizens also enjoy a type of individual sovereignty, deciding for themselves how to live their individual lives within the civil laws that they themselves agree upon. While the purity of such a system dwindles at times, it is a core foundation—sovereign rule is founded upon individual sovereignty.

Similarly, when we say that God is sovereign, it is improper to say that God controls everything and everyone. More accurately, it means that no outside force controls God. He is defined by Himself and no one else. He sets the principles of His kingdom. Yet, He extends to the inhabitants of the earth individual choice.

Author's Note

God used the law to lead Israel to Christ, knowing that the law was imperfect in that it could not change one's heart. When we receive Jesus, we are made new creations who long to please God. We are led by the Spirit, but not as robots. He guides us and gives us hearts that want to follow, but it is still our choice to do so. We are not His puppets, but His children led by His Spirit, not the law.

¹ Merriam-Webster dictionary