

The Attributes of God
Attribute #21 - Sovereign

1. Sovereign - The sovereignty of God means that He is on His most high throne, designing, creating, directing, executing, regulating, and permitting every event that occurs in heaven and on earth, according to His own good pleasure and without any restraining influences. He is sovereign because He is all-knowing, all-powerful, and absolutely free.
 - A. Sovereignty affirms God's absolute authority to govern the full course of creation (including nations and men) in any manner that best fits His eternal wise, holy, and loving counsels.
 - B. Nothing is untouched by the sovereign will of God. What He wills, He performs or controls or permits. No accidents are even possible in the face of the omniscient, omnipotent, and sovereign God.
 - C. This means that every event or situation in the life of a believer is for the glory of God and our benefit.
 1. 2 Sam.17: 14; 1 Sam.8: 7-9; Isa.41: 9 –10; Dan. 4 35
 2. Romans 9:8-14
 3. Psalm 103:3; 135:6
 4. Acts 2:23,39
 5. Prov.3: 6-8
 6. Psalm 44:3
 7. Matt.11: 25-27; John 6:44; Romans 9 (entire chapter); 15:32
 8. Psalm 145:18; Prov.15: 29
 9. Eph. 1:11
2. The Sovereignty of God Described
 - A. It is universal – It extends over all His creatures from the highest to the lowest (1 Chron. 29: 11-12)
 - B. It is absolute – There is no limit to be placed on His authority. He does His pleasure in the armies of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth.
 - C. It is immutable – It can neither be ignored nor rejected. It binds all creatures, as inexorably as physical laws bind the material universe.
 1. It is exercised in establishing the laws, physical and moral, by which all creatures are to be governed.
 2. It is the determining factor in the nature and powers of the different orders of created beings, and assigning each its appropriate sphere.

3. It appoints to each individual his position and lot in life. It is the Lord who fixes the boundaries of our existence. Our times are in His hands. He determines when, where, and under what circumstances each individual our a race is to be born, live, and die.

D. It is gracious and merciful – He does what He wills with His own. He gives to some riches, to others honor; to others, health; while others are poor, unknown, and the victims of disease

1. To some, the light of the gospel is sent; others are left in darkness. Some are brought through faith to salvation; other perish in unbelief.
2. Why? Jesus answers it better than we can –
Matt. 11: 26 - 27; Luke 10:21 - *“Yes, Father, this was your good pleasure”*

3. Charles Spurgeon quote on Matthew 20:15 –

“ There is no attribute more comforting to His children than that of God’s sovereignty. Under the most adverse circumstances, in the most severe trials, they believe that sovereignty has ordained their afflictions that sovereignty overrules them, and that sovereignty will sanctify them. There is nothing for which the children ought more earnestly to contend than the doctrine of their Master over all of creation – the Kingship of God over all the works of His hands – the Throne of God and His right to rule upon that Throne. On the other hand, there is no doctrine more hated by the worldlings, no truth of which they have made such a football, as the great, stupendous, but yet most certain doctrine of the sovereignty of the infinite Jehovah. Men will allow God to be everywhere except on His throne. They will allow Him to be in His workshop to fashion worlds and make stars. They will allow Him to be His almonry to dispense His alms and bestow His bounties. They will allow Him to sustain the earth and bear up the pillars thereof, or light the lamps of heaven or rule the waves of the ever-moving ocean; but when God ascends His throne, His creatures then gnash their teeth. And we proclaim an enthroned God, and His right to do as He wills with His own, to dispose of His creatures as He thinks well, without consulting them in the matter; then it is that we are hissed and execrated, and then it is that men turn a deaf ear to us, for God on His throne is not the God they love. But it is God upon the throne that we love to preach. It is God upon His throne that we must trust.

- A. Although this sovereignty is universal and absolute, it is the sovereignty of wisdom, holiness, and love. The authority of God is limited by nothing outside of Himself, but it is controlled, in all its manifestations, by His infinite perfections, His perfect attributes, nature, and characteristics.

1. The basic reason people do not like the doctrine of the sovereignty of God is because they do not want a sovereign God. They wish to be autonomous.
2. Thus, they deny His existence, deny this attribute of His existence, or else simply ignore Him for practical purposes.
 - a. This started with Adam and Eve in the garden – Gen.3: 1-4.
 - b. “as God” or “be like God” means to become autonomous
4. The Blessings of the Sovereignty of God
 - A. It deepens our veneration of the living and true God - worship the true God in the correct manner.
 - B. It gives comfort in the midst of trials, temptation or sorrow – 1 Peter 1:6-7
 - C. It provides encouragement, power, and joy in evangelism – Matt. 19:23-26; Mark 10:24-27
 - D. It affords us a deep sense of security – Romans 8:31,35,37-39