

## Connection Equipping Academy

### Biblical Foundation // God's Character, Nature, and Attributes

#### Topic // *God Is Sovereign*

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## OVERVIEW

### Mission Statement

***Our goal is to help equip the saints to do God's work in the World.***

We will progress in the growth area of knowing God as we discuss another attribute of God. We are learning how each of God's attributes reveals the truth about our misconceptions, and how we grow in the grace of the Gospel when we are renewing our minds ***daily*** in light of Who He is and what He has done!

As we are being equipped with these truths, we are going to spend several weeks talking through *four growth areas*. We'll be looking biblical foundations for each of these:

### ***Four Growth Areas***

- Knowing God
- Identity in Christ
- The Body of Christ
- God's Kingdom

In order to equip, we will practice each week looking at the Biblical passages on each topic. We will consider some of the common misconceptions and then ask four *application questions*:

- What does this tell us about God?
- What does this tell us about ourselves?
- What has God done?
- Who have we become?

## INTRODUCTION

In episode 7, we want to consider the practical impact of God's sovereignty. God intends for us to live in firm security and delight in every aspect of His perfect nature, so let's confront what keeps us from believing in His goodness when we wrestle with the mystery of His sovereignty.

## **GOD IS SOVEREIGN**

### **Misconception - If He is sovereign, how can evil still exist? Why does He allow bad things?**

This environment is not what God intended. Acknowledging this does not disprove His sovereignty. His design that allows for true relationship also provides that our choices have consequences.

1. From where do we get this misconception?
2. What strongholds can be built from this one misconception?
3. What gospel truth tells us otherwise?

- Genesis 50:18

When we can't understand something, we must go back to what we *do* know. We can still trust Him even when we can't see goodness for a time.

4. How does Scripture renew your mind and help you tear down those strongholds?  
Give yourself permission to not know, but remind yourself of the promises He has made. His attribute of community reveals another aspect of the goodness *in* His sovereignty. When we can't see the good that is transpiring even in our pain, our community can see and just be with us in it.
5. What would change in your life if this stronghold were completely uprooted in your thinking?

### **Misconception - How can our free will exist under His sovereignty?**

Free will and sovereignty are not at odds but work together as two pedals on a bike. They don't have to be reconciled because they are not in contention.

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2. What strongholds can be built from this one misconception?
3. What gospel truth tells us otherwise?
4. How does Scripture show you how to renew your mind and help you tear down those strongholds?

5. What would change in your life if this stronghold were completely uprooted in your thinking?

## PERSONAL APPLICATION

### Application Question 1

1. What do we learn of God because He is sovereign?
  - a. He is going to work out His plan of reconciliation because He remains committed at all times.
  - b. All of His attributes are comforting and trustworthy working in His sovereignty.
  - c. ***Providence is God's character in action.*** He uses both His unique attributes and the attributes that we share with him to achieve in the world and in our lives the promises He's made.
  - d. We can only trust Him and all His promises *because* He is sovereign.
  - e. In Matthew 6:25-34, Jesus reveals the depth of God's ability and care to adorn creation and provide for the smallest things, assuring us of His commitment and ability to know and provide for all our needs.
  - f. God redefines true leadership and lordship. Jesus shows us His good gifts in the leadership He provides. Scriptures re-orient us from our experiences to trust His leadership. We see Jesus use His power to lead by serving because His character is always selfless and pure.

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### Application Question 2

2. What do we learn of ourselves because of His sovereignty?
  - a. Our sense of control is an illusion. We cannot place our trust in anything that will fade or fail.
  - b. We are dependent on our Heavenly Father and because He is sovereign and good, He sustains and intervenes even in the mystery.

Gen. 50:18-20

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### Application Question 3

3. What does His sovereignty do in the course of life?

- Colossians 1:17
- Hebrews 1:3

We can have faith in sovereignty as a grace in our lives. Salvation is by grace through faith, and so is our sanctification.

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### Application Question 4

4. Who have I become in His sovereignty?

- Sovereignty works to bring us to salvation and to grow us into the righteousness of Christ we've already become in Jesus.
- Rom. 8:28, 29
- If it weren't for His sovereignty, we wouldn't continue to grow in Him. Our sin would keep us from desiring Him and it would be a detriment to the people and purpose in our lives.

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When things looked the worst to the nation of Israel, that is the environment in which the birth, ministry, crucifixion, and Resurrection took place.

**Apply** this personally:

Matt. 6:33 Reminds us to keep it simple. Pursue God, do your part during the day, but trust and keep your eyes on Him. Acknowledge with prayer and pursuit God as sovereign.

Gen. 50:20 - Let the mystery abide of what we can't see, but trust His character and the evidence of former faithfulness that He will remain faithful and is always working.

Acts 4:27 - Count it be true of Who He is that He is the sovereign Lord and let that lead your prayer life.

