

Intro. Do you bel God is sovereign? Like trinity atonement this is not a NT word. But concept is Biblical. Only what does sovereign mean. All-power. No tho related. All wise. No tho related. Arbitrary. Has to do with ruling--reign. Means primary or highest ruler. God sovereign bec highest ruler. *Supreme* Col 1 has to do with meaning of sovereignty more than Eph 1. Let us describe the concept of sov God.

I. Sovereignty is limited.

A. By nature of God. Cannot sin. So whatever relatn God has to sin in His plan He cannot sin. God hates sin, Psa 5:5 incld Xn's. Father and child. God cannot be unloving bec He is love. When takes baby in death it's loving.

B. By plan of God.

He plans in His rule to do things certain ways which are not always direct. Sov person doesn't have to act sov always to be sov. e.g. CCR in campus. e.g. X on earth.

God has incld rules in plan and these limit our concept of sov. e.g. law of gravity. No miracle has violated this law for people in non-res body. e.g. sowing and reaping Gal. 6:7. Studies.

e.g. law of preaching, 1 Cor 1:21. Rom 10:14. IF it doesn't burden you that there are people going to hell, something's wrong with your sov.

C. By People who are unwilling

law of choice — Ps 78:41.

II. Sovereignty is Purposeful.

Cf. to whimsical, arbitrary, ethereal. It is practical and realistic.

A. In relatn to us--service. Gal 1:15-16. *v10 w/ 35* Eph 3:10. Already planned what you walk in. *serv. in Eph 2* If don't walk that's not His plan cause Word says opposite. If don't as Calvin said it is acc to His will but not by His command.

B. In relatn to Him--glory. Eph 1:6,12,14.

Is God shown off when don't pray? When fail? Wrath of men will praise Him but still wrath not made right.

Concl. When say God is sovereign remember that's a limited concept and a purposeful one.