

## **Session #1 – Compatibilism: God’s will and ours**

### **1. Series Introduction**

**Session #1 – Compatibilism: God’s will and ours**

**Session #2 – Compatibilism: God & evil, cause(s) & culpability**

**Session #3 – Compatibilism: Incarnation & issues**

### **2. Session Introduction**

#### **a. Twin truths taught by Scripture**

**i) God is sovereign**

**ii) Human beings are responsible (moral agents)**

**The tension – Romans 9:19 – “One of you will say to me: “Then why does God still blame us? For who resists his will?”**

**a) Lord/King (Ephesians 1:11, Proverbs 21:1)**

**b) Judge (2 Corinthians 5:10, Revelation 20:11-13)**

#### **b. Twin truths known by experience - prayer**

**i) We’re responsible**

**ii) God is sovereign**

#### **c. Twin truths difficult to reconcile – terms**

**i) antinomy vs. paradox**

“not so much a problem to solve, as a framework (with parameters) to explore” (D.A. Carson)

ii) compatibilism

**d. Twin truths difficult to reconcile – responding**

i) acceptance

ii) refusal

1. pitting

2. negating

3. respecting

4. connecting / ordering

**e. Twin truths difficult to reconcile – history**

i) Augustine vs. Pelagius (Pelagianism, semi-Pelagianism)

ii) Luther vs. Erasmus – Arminius

iii) Wesley Methodism (vs. Charles Simeon / George Whitfield)

3. Matters of the will

Discussion Exercise – which diagram best represent your understanding / experience of this?



God's will & my will are independent, on a par, intersect at points,...



God's will is far superior to mine, it bears down on mine, calling mine upward, occasionally our wills coincide,...



God's will is narrow, targeted, perfect & pure, my will spills out in all different directions,...



God's will is all-encompassing, it envelopes mine at every point,...

a. The Issue of 'Free Will'

i) Human beings as moral agents

1. creaturely

2. corrupt (John 8:31-36)

our experience – Romans 7:14-25

**ii) God as moral agent**

**1. Creator**

**2. free (I AM WHO I AM)**

**Genesis 3 – exegesis**

**iii) Different order of beings = different order of wills**

**iv) Mission-dollar question = can two wills coalesce? COMPATIBILISM**

**v) Compatibilism – here AND now? (1 Corinthians 15)**

**Homework exercise – Apologetics 101**

***If God is all-powerful and all-good, why is there suffering / evil in the world?***

**How would you respond to this objection / argument? Which Scriptures might you refer to?**