

Our Relationship with God in 2018: Estranged or Intimate?

A Study of the Character of God as He has Revealed Himself vs.
the Substitute Idols of our Neo-Pagan Culture

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Lesson 2: Saturday Evening, 1 Sep

Introduction & Review

[Slide 18 = Slide 4 to review the two basic views of life]

[Slide 19 = Slide 9 to review Satan's "malware 1"]

[Slide 20 = Slide 12 to remind us that "malware 1" continues to be active]

[Slide 21 = Slide 13 to review Satan's "malware 2"]

God Alone is SOVEREIGN

Beginning with an attribute I will repeat this 4-step methodology with each attribute.

1. Must begin with special revelation of His sovereignty because He has revealed this attribute of His character throughout the biblical library of history (e.g., Job 37 & Acts 17:23–31) He did so via creation design and ongoing providence.
2. Learn our finite analog to sovereignty because we are made "in His image." We choose, but only within the options He has made available to us. [Slide 22 Matt 11:21–22—to show an example of options people faced in two events in history separated by more than 5 centuries in time and in two different geographical locations] [Slide 23 = Slide 21 to show that options available to us include those Satan puts forward to deceive us]
3. Unbelief/Pagan perversions & idols of sovereignty try to create some sort of substitute for God's sovereign control over life. These include passive types (e.g., fatalism, bio-chemical determinism) and active types (e.g., individual persons trying to micro-manage or society-wide hyper regulation like fascism, socialism).
4. Concluding blessings to us.
 - Divine sovereignty humbles me as Nebuchadnezzar found out through Daniel interpreting a prophetic dream of his. [Slide 24 with Dan 4:24–27 to show the culmination of Nebuchadnezzar's misinterpretation of God's appointing him ruler for a limited period]
 - Divine sovereignty is personally interactive, not robotic as frequently imagined. [Slides 25 & 26 citing Ex 32:7–10 and 32:11–13, respectively—to show how God got Moses to intercede for the nation Israel with an interactive conversation]
 - Divine sovereignty incentivizes me to pray