



**Sovereign
God.**

**Responsible
people?**

J.I. Packer

The particular antinomy which concerns us here is the apparent opposition between divine sovereignty and human responsibility, or (putting it more biblically) between what God does as King and what He does as Judge. Scripture teaches that as King, He orders and controls all things, human actions among them, in accordance with His own eternal purpose. Scripture also teaches that, as Judge, He holds every man responsible for the choices he makes and the courses of actions he pursues.

'Concurrence'

Proverbs 16:33

Acts 4:27-28

Genesis 50:19-21

Deuteronomy 8:17-18

Amos 3:6

Philippians 2:12-13

Matthew 28:18-20



**Sovereign
God. *denied***

**Arminianism
Open Theism**

God's Sovereignty *denied*

Insecurity- (personal, church, world)

Abusive mission

Mission as an intolerable burden

Worship stunted



**Responsible
people?**



**Human
Responsibility**
denied

**Hyper-
Calvinism**

Human Responsibility *denied*

Fatalistic *Islamic* theology
Failure to act, and pray
Kills mission

Getting it right

The Apostle Paul

Acts

ch1

ch6

The Ephesian 'arc'

Getting it right



The Apostle Paul



Louis Berkhof

Divine concurrence. This may be defined as that work of God by which He co-operates with all His creatures and causes them to act precisely as they do. It implies that there are real secondary causes in the world, such as the powers of nature and the will of man, and asserts that those do not work independently of God. God works in every act of His creatures, not only in their good but also in their evil acts. He stimulates them to action, accompanies their action at every moment, and makes this action effective.

Louis Berkhof

However we should never think of God and man as equal causes, the former is the primary and the latter only a secondary cause. Neither should we conceive of them as each doing a part of the work, like a team of horses. The same deed is in its entirety both a deed of God and of man. Moreover we should guard against the idea that this co-operation makes God responsible for man's sinful deeds.

J.I. Packer

Man is a responsible moral agent, although he is also divinely controlled; man is divinely controlled, though he is also a responsible moral agent. God's sovereignty is a reality and man's responsibility is a reality too.

The temptation is to undercut and maim the one truth by the way in which we stress the other : to assert man's responsibility in a way that excludes God from being sovereign, or to affirm God's sovereignty in a way that destroys the responsibility of man.

Wayne Grudem

All of these passages* reporting both general statements about God's work in the lives of all people and specific examples of God's work in the lives of individuals, leads us to conclude that God's providential work of concurrence extends to all aspects of our lives. Our words, our steps, our movements, our hearts and are abilities are from the Lord. But we must guard against misunderstanding. Here also, God's providential direction as an unseen, behind-the-scenes "primary cause" should not lead us to deny the reality of our choices and actions.

Wayne Grudem

Again and again scripture affirms that we really do cause events to happen. We are significant and we are responsible. We do have choices that bring about real results.... Because God has made us in such a wonderful way that he has endowed us with the property of willing choice.

A.A. Hodge

It is of the highest importance that we hold both the correlated truths of the real efficiency of secondary causes, and of the controlling providence of God; of human freedom and divine sovereignty - and then leave the question of their reconciliation to the future.

Finally...

Don't

Panic, Manipulate, Cut scriptures out to fit your mind or theological system.

Use God's sovereignty as an excuse for sin or inactivity!

Do

Pray hard, work hard. Pursue holiness

Share the gospel with everyone you can.

Trust God - for your future, the world's future

Fight the fight, run the race

The Lord Jesus Christ

Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”