

Sovereignty of God

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I. Introduction.

- A. Nothing we have in life ought to be a treasure—the focus of our trust must not be on material things. (Matthew 6:19-21)
- B. Our treasure needs to be people.
- C. We need to get a handle on four basic issues in order to finish well.

II. The sovereignty of God.

- A. God is in control.
- B. God works everything for good. (Genesis 50:20, Romans 8:28)
- C. God's glory is at the center of His definition of goodness.
- D. Bitterness can destroy us, so we must believe that God is in control.
- E. The bottom line of human experience is the character of God.

III. The centrality of the Scripture.

- A. We have everything we need for life and holy living. (II Peter 1:3-4)
- B. Without believing that there is a fixed reference point, there is confusion. The Bible is the fixed reference point.

IV. The value of the individual.

- A. Your gifts and weaknesses are evidences of God's love. (I Corinthians 12:18)
- B. Our weaknesses intensify our awareness of how much we need each other.
- C. Do not compare yourself to others.
- D. If you do not believe that God has given you value as an individual, you will end up in despair. (Proverbs 13:20)
- E. We need to comfort one another and be comforted.

V. The servant lifestyle of the believer.

A. Jesus became a servant. (Philippians)

B. There is tension in Scripture: the poor are important but not determinative. (Luke 14, I Peter 3, Galatians 2:10)

C. We are called to be servants and not doormats. There is sensitivity.

D. The alternative to service is interpersonal conflict.

Application questions:

1. How does the sovereignty of God affect us every day?

2. What is the significance of giving the Bible a place of first importance?

3. How can you maximize your service to others? Explain.
