



chosen &
choosing
How God's life becomes ours

Week 1: *Embracing Grace*

This is a series about God, us, and how we enter into relationship together. Nothing is more important. And nothing generates more diverse opinions among Christians...

He chose us, not because we believed, but that we might believe.
-- Augustine, *Predestination of the Saints*

By free will one shapes one's own life.
-- Catechism of the Catholic Church (1994)

Free-will without God's grace is not free at all, but is the permanent prisoner and bondsman of evil, since it cannot turn itself to good.
-- Martin Luther, *The Bondage of the Will*

If it is not in the power of every man to keep what is commanded, all the exhortations in the Scriptures... are of necessity useless.
-- Erasmus, *Diatribes Concerning Free Will*

When the will is enchained as the slave of sin, it cannot make a movement towards goodness, far less steadily pursue it.
-- John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*

All unregenerate persons have freedom of will, and a capability of resisting the Holy Spirit... and of not opening to Him who knocks at the door of the heart; and these things they can actually do.
-- Jacob Arminius, *Certain Articles to Be Diligently Examined and Weighed: Because some Controversy Has Arisen Concerning Them among Even Those Who Profess the Reformed Religion*

God having placed good and evil in our power, has given us full freedom of choice.

-- Chrysostom, *De proditione Judaeorum*

God is the initiator and principal actor in salvation, and we should never think salvation originated with us. God, however, has given humanity a sense of freedom and requires us to make a choice.

-- Gerald Borchert, *New American Commentary on John*

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him won't perish but will have eternal life.

-- Jesus