

WHO'S IN CHARGE HERE?

PHIL 2:12-16

I. WHO'S IN CHARGE HERE (AND HOW DO THEY OPERATE)—SOME THOUGHT EXPERIMENTS.

- A. Music: organ recital (playing own composition or Bach)? orchestral performance (conductor, musicians, score)? jazz improvisation?
- B. Drama: playwright? director? actors?
- C. Athletics: gymnast? cheerleader? golfer? basketball team (coach, plays, players)?
- D. Gambling: slot machines? craps? roulette? blackjack? poker?
- E. Education: lecture? lecture/discussion? Socratic questioning? small group discussions?
- F. House construction: prefab units? log home kits? on-site (frontier) improvisation?
- G. Business: boss issuing edicts? manager eliciting participation? workers (e.g. soviets) setting agenda?
- H. Family: patriarchy? matriarchy? parental aristocracy? democratic assembly? children determining directions?

II. MONERGISM

- A. Philosophical: matter (or man) alone
 - 1. Monistic materialists in antiquity—Thales *et al*
 - 2. Pantheistic naturalists in modernity—Spinoza *et al*
 - 3. *Secular* Humanists attribute all to human agency
- B. Theological: theistic determinism, God alone
 - 1. Augustine—at times, in polemics against Pelagians
 - 2. John Calvin and, more especially, his followers at Synod of Dort (1619)
 - 3. Contemporary Evangelicals—e.g. John Piper re 9/11

III. SYNERGISM

- A. Philosophical: choices genuine, moral responsibility real
 - 1. Free will in antiquity—Socrates, Plato, Aristotle
 - 2. Free will in modernity—Robert Nozick
- B. Theological: responding to God, man makes personal decisions
 - 1. From Justin Martyr, Irenaeus, Tertullian & Clement of Alexandria on, most Early Church fathers favored free will
 - 2. James Arminius abandoned Calvinism, ca. 1600
 - 3. Contemporary Evangelicals—e.g. Roger Olson, Thomas Oden

IV. SOTERIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES

- A. Significant differences, separating both Catholics (who tend to stress human works) from Protestants (who historically exalt grace)
- B. Three Evangelical views
 - 1. Norman Geisler: *Chosen but Free*
 - 2. R.T. Forster & V.P. Marston: *God's Strategy in Human History*
 - 3. John Lennox: *Determined to Believe?*