



# COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Sovereignty | Is anyone in charge? How do we know?

July 10, 2018



**sov·er·eign·ty:** (*definition from merriam-webster.com*)

1. supreme power or authority.

"how can we hope to wrest sovereignty away from the oligarchy and back to the people?"

synonyms: jurisdiction, rule, supremacy, dominion, power, ascendancy, suzerainty, hegemony, domination, authority, control, influence

*"their sovereignty over the islands"*

2. the authority of a state to govern itself or another state.

"national sovereignty"

synonyms: autonomy, independence, self-government, self-rule, home rule, self-determination, freedom

*"the colony demanded full sovereignty"*

3. a self-governing state.

plural noun: sovereignties

## Quotes from the Bible about the Sovereignty of God:

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<sup>18</sup> I [the apostle Paul] consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup> For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; <sup>20</sup> for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup> that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup> We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; <sup>23</sup> and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup> For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? <sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

<sup>26</sup> Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. <sup>27</sup> And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

<sup>28</sup> We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large

family.<sup>30</sup> And those whom God predestined God also called; and those whom God called God also justified; and those whom God justified God also glorified.

Romans 8:18-30

### Questions for Discussion:

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What do you mean when you say that God is in charge, or that God is sovereign?

Best-selling author & pastor Brian McLaren, in his book *A New Kind of Christianity* wrote “Whatever the final judgment will be, it will not involve God (pardon his crudeness) pulling down our pants to check for circumcision or scanning our brains for certain beliefs like products being scanned at the grocery check-out.” What do you think it will involve? What does Romans 8 say about this?

“It matters not how a man dies, but how he lives. The act of dying is not of importance, it lasts so short a time.” – Samuel Johnson, British author (1709-1784). Have you thought about how you would prefer to die? Have you thought about how you would prefer to live? How does it matter?

Is God always present?

Is God able to change?

When do you feel closest to God?

How do you know when you’re experiencing God’s favor? Can any one group claim to have a monopoly on this?