

Why Human Freedom Matters: The Consequences of Insha'Allah

Understanding and Answering Islam Summit

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1. What Do We Mean By The Word 'Freedom'?

- Two *types* of freedom ...
 - The “liberty of spontaneity” (nobody forces me to do something)
 - The “liberty of indifference” (I could have chosen otherwise)
- Two directions to freedom ...
 - Freedom *from* (otherwise known as “negative liberty”)
 - Freedom *to* (otherwise known as “positive liberty”)

2. Why Does Freedom Matter So Much?

- Freedom is required for morality and justice
- Freedom is required for thinking and reason
- Freedom is required for true faith
- Freedom is required for love

3. Where Does Freedom Best Fit?

- The importance of worldview
- Two types of determinism
 - Naturalistic determinism (held by many atheists)
 - Theological determinism
 - Balancing God's sovereignty and human freedom, vs. subsuming human freedom

4. Islam And The Emphasis On Allah's Will (*inshallah*)

- The importance of worldview
- What you believe about God effects what you think about humanity (theology informs anthropology)

5. Islam and Human Freedom

- The Qur'anic view
- The Hadith
- Early theological developments and the Mu'tazilite controversy
- The 'closing of the Muslim mind'

6. Why the Trinity Matters

- Trinity vs. Tawhid and its impact on the question of human freedom

7. For Further Reading

- Grim, Brian J. and Finke, Roger, *The Price of Freedom Denied: Religious Persecution and Conflict in the Twenty-First Century* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011)
- Hicks, Peter, *The Journey So Far: Philosophy Through the Ages* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2003)
- Huff, Toby E., *The Rise of Early Modern Science: Islam, China and the West* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995)
- Lennox, John C., *Determined to Believe: The Sovereignty of God, Freedom, Faith, and Human Responsibility* (Oxford: Monarch, 2017)
- Rahman, Fazlur, *Major Themes of the Qur'an* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2009 [1980])
- Reilly, Robert R., *The Closing of the Muslim Mind: How Intellectual Suicide Created the Modern Islamist* (Wilmington: Intercollegiate Studies Institute, 2010)