

# CSI: Controversial Subject Investigated:

## The Sovereignty of God

The Setting:	Heaven and Earth
The Evidence:	Psalm 115:3; Rev. 4:11; Romans 8:28; Deut. 30:19 (see also CSI: My Bible Notes on Sovereignty)
The Characters:	Sovereign God and All Mankind
The Controversy:	If God can do what He pleases, what does He please to do?

Nobody with any sense would deny that God is sovereign and that He can do whatever He pleases. Then it is necessary to determine what He *pleases* to do, and He has made that abundantly clear in Scripture. One cannot study sovereignty without first considering God's nature.

### God's first thought toward mankind is to be gracious.

The first acknowledgment must be that God **is** love. He doesn't just love; He is love. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). This tenet is foundational to our faith. Recognizing that God loves us unconditionally transforms how we view Him and how we view each other. We can rest assured that no matter our circumstances, His love remains constant, offering hope and comfort.

***The LORD is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy.***  
*The LORD is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works. Psalm 145:8, 9*

### God is no respecter of persons.

*"For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for **the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.***  
*For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."* Romans 10:12 13

### God is not willing that any should perish.

*The Lord is **not** slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is **longsuffering to usward,***  
***not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."*** 2 Peter 3:9

### God's sovereignty is kept in bound by His promises.

***And God said, This is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: I do set my bow in the cloud,*** and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth. And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud: ***And I will remember my covenant,*** which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh. And ***the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember*** the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth.

### God controls His power; His power doesn't control Him.

God's authority stems from His divine attributes. His omniscience means He knows all things. His omnipotence means He has unlimited power. His omnipresence means He is everywhere at once. These characteristics form the basis of His sovereignty and, consequently, the foundation of our faith.

Understanding God's control over everything requires us to confront tough questions. How does God's sovereignty relate to human free will? What about the existence of evil and suffering in the world? These questions have been debated for centuries. Many Bible verses and examples give insight into man's choices and God's ultimate will for man.

(see CSI: MyNotes on Sovereignty)