

# will



poetry by *Christopher Williana Purdom*



Will

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I am

No one aspect of human  
reason sexuality  
or the physical body,  
Sin, is a kind of sickness.  
dangerous to move beyond  
what God has not revealed Yet  
the flesh was by Adam's fall



corrupted and then in west  
Philadelphia bishop's  
Mennonite children, children  
of wrath, like everyone else,  
Our brother crucified the  
flesh saw predestination  
as protecting One sister

soul lost its freedom of choice;  
and the spirit became the  
helpless prisoner Factors  
like sensory stimuli  
in the preceding minute,  
fear, euphoria impact  
how your brain reacts I have

no confidence in the flesh  
aroused into great panic  
We can perpetrate violence  
against this position on  
the basis that it implies  
God "actively intervenes  
to work sin" gave them over

to an unfit mind fell back,  
tapping into a primal  
sensory system in a  
bizarre way Full of envy,  
to follow the enticements  
of my Father in substance,  
consumed with their passionate

desires Their females exchanged  
in the Public School system  
as Further information:  
during that time. a doctrine  
that has been warmly embraced  
by some but has caused problems  
for others. in a one room

school our brains, while similar,  
are each unique, making it  
difficult to recognize  
the hidden, underlying  
forces at Diamond Street in  
a setting in which he could  
function with his special needs

for reconciliation  
motivated by love to  
do things that should not be done.  
without having agency  
Instead, put on the Lord and  
human civilization.  
predestines to his children.

through the history of the church  
Not to mention genetics,  
knowing good and evil, found  
the tree of Lititz ruthless.  
dishonorable passions  
nothing more than craftiness,  
a cognitive illusion,



committed shameless acts Through  
the Middle Ages Then the  
LORD God said, “See, the humans  
have become like one of us,  
For the wages of sin is  
death, but the free gift of God  
is eternal life in Christ

Jesus our Lord. my pastor's  
(regenerated/born  
again) pressure to write new  
confessions, collectively  
forge with determination,  
a unique identity.  
All enslaving elements

remain to show God's justice.  
some are more explicit than  
others. unable to turn  
away For as often as  
you eat this bread and drink the  
cup, you proclaim in writing  
these the church has had to ask

quite seriously how we  
now understand this doctrine.  
even applaud others who  
married to covetousness,  
wife wife, faithless, grandmother  
might reach out their culprit hands  
eat and live forever” — If

there is no

free will? We elect  
Presbyterians  
take up the question  
motivated by  
considerations.  
He can in no way  
be responsible  
for Anabaptists  
because we are not  
of obedience,

having been set free  
of God's love for us.  
Reformers, we can  
receive a spirit  
of obedience  
but each man chooses  
the way he shall go.  
Augustine's idea  
that God must first take  
the initiative

in that person's choice  
would lead to despair.  
they are all alike  
and worried about  
whether or not they  
are saved, they should look  
without discerning  
sinful attitudes  
so implicitly  
come upon us. We



say, between different  
thoughts from a sincere  
and pure devotion  
he speaks according  
to his own nature,  
he is a liar  
the father of lies.  
God's own sovereignty  
which will bear upon  
other dissenters

asserting complete  
events of history  
had granted free will,  
divine grace offered  
to the extent that  
Christianity  
desires repentance;  
we open ourselves  
to the bondage of  
demonic powers

best represented  
and repeated in  
the same position.  
Only because of  
God's pardon and through  
divine grace, not from  
human merit, are  
men permitted to  
exercise free will.  
But this grace can be

rejected; hence men  
are responsible  
although they do not  
through the example  
and power of Christ,  
recognizing that  
the consequences  
spring from God's law, and  
God withholds His hands  
by attributing

disobedience  
to human wisdom,  
with Adam and Eve,  
systematically  
fulfill God's desire  
for voluntary  
obedience as  
opposed to the blind  
obedience of  
"a log or a stone."

The whole history of  
Reformed tradition  
also insisted  
grace transforms the will  
though not perfectly.  
God's lordship over  
the subject for us  
was already a  
much-misunderstood  
eternal decree,

the very strong stress  
being entirely  
held to Augustine's  
predestination.  
God's foreknowledge of  
Luther and Calvin  
saw the doctrine as  
necessary to  
theology, and  
Calvin followed him

to explain why God  
must stand in awe of  
my impression that  
Contemporary  
Presbyterians  
can only respond  
in obedience  
to your ancestors;  
held accountable  
in more nuanced ways



than often assumed.  
The challenge lies in  
recognizing the  
absence of free will,  
the immediate  
makes us who we are.  
The difficulty  
lies in perceiving  
this distributed  
unprecedented

hypothetical  
random wiring,  
not exactly like  
eyes on the same side  
art and aesthetics,  
due to our unique  
neuro-chemical  
basilar membrane  
behind a gazelle's  
neurological

Future Glory

the power of the air, the  
earth and no vegetation  
a sword flaming and turning  
their bodies among themselves.  
Do not covet the silver  
or the gold that is on them  
Its end shall come with a flood,

to rain upon the earth, and  
showing them no pity; you  
guilty may suffer alike.  
accursed and cut off from  
This intricate tapestry  
the total depravity  
the culture your ancestors

stumbled over the stumbling  
to the end there shall be war.  
desolating sacrilege  
and the service of Satan,  
The course of history is fixed,  
dominates the human will,  
clears away many nations

dust you shall eat all the days  
Who is to condemn? It is  
their sins, unsaved, in order  
to ordinary people.  
wounds of the crucified Christ.  
And since they did not see fit  
the earth was filled with violence.

powers of evil and death.  
enslaved to sin cannot choose.  
dominate the unwilling  
entire created order.  
to the opposite extreme  
the ultimate goal toward which  
history is moving. These men



moat, but in a troubled time.  
sin to a greater degree  
and enslave humanity  
With respect to the nature  
are constantly corrupted.  
advance what that choice will be.  
a continual abuse

of fatalistic belief  
received from our first parents  
identifying which brain  
parts activated or went  
silent. But there's more to it.  
When you examine how these  
intertwine, from genetics

and evolution to the  
ecstatic revelation  
the history and meaning of  
any heritage we have  
given way to the tempter,  
to become of each [person].  
of how they will lead their lives.

to place far greater stress on  
our own behavior. As the  
princes, and our ancestors,  
all the people of the land.  
of the evening sacrifice.  
turn from all your transgressions;  
Desolations are decreed.

to make an end of all flesh,  
“Come, let us build ourselves a  
dangerous doctrine to preach  
grace transforms the will so that  
until you have destroyed them.  
men have sufficient freedom  
from the inheritance which

believed that a divine plan  
sent them forth from the garden  
quickly stopped short of trying  
somehow manage to extract  
the world, brains, and neurons  
Institutes of the Christian  
redeeming love and mercy

treated as inferior  
dread diseases of Egypt  
the needs of other people.  
Assemble yourselves and come  
survivors of the nations!  
do not divide (as English  
replace the fallen angels,

who have been marginalized,  
are being killed all day long;  
rescue the oppressed; defend  
a wanderer on the earth.”  
live according to the flesh—  
The revolutionary  
my body that is for you.





## Commentary

let us go down and confuse their language there, so that they will not understand one another's speech." In this I speak to the "predestinated" and "foreordained" respectively. It is my truth but These are not my words. individuals and groups with original case and mark were taken and made sinful without leave from a Robert Sapolsky interview a memorial four. writings about free will in Presbyterian Mennonite Calvinist and Anabaptist theology, and their Biblical [citation

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