

# Starting Point

## Reformed Theology

### God is Sovereign

God created a “creation” and has been and is in total control of it. He created a man to show His love to through the creation and all that life brings with it.

God is in total control of all parts of existence at all time. Man has no part to play in this, nor any responsibility (or no part to play and also the responsibility)

Everything that happens to man is God’s will.  
And man is to accept this as God’s sovereignty.

God is good  
... and so ...  
Everything that happens in life is good.

Everything is God’s will +God is good = Sickness, Poverty, Loss is good

Through suffering sickness, poverty, and loss and doing it with love, joy and submission, glory is brought onto God.

God may or may not want us to suffer sickness, poverty, and loss, He chooses.

He chooses who is blessed, He chooses who is cursed, He chooses who is healthy, He chooses who is sick. He chooses who is saved, He chooses who is damned. Our lot in life is His choice and to expect anything else would be a sign of ingratitude.

### God is Sovereign

God created a “creation” and a “partner” (man) with a free will and all the responsibility that goes with it.

This partner was to have dominion over the course of the creation and through the process of having dominion he was to understand God’s love, wisdom, and majesty.

To make it truly “free will” He gave a set of parameters in which to operate and freedom to choose within those parameters.  
Big creation - big parameters

Man stepped outside those parameters and brought a curse on themselves and the creation  
Man bears the responsibility for that disobedience and curse

God in His sovereignty chose to redeem man and creation from the curse. He did that through a man who through His obedience to God’s parameters accomplished fully that redemption.

Then, in His sovereignty God gave the responsibility back to His “partner” to once again operate under the parameters and re-take dominion of the creation.

Sickness, Poverty, Loss is a result of the curse. Because we live in a world that has been under the curse for six thousand years we have to deal with the results of that curse.

But God has not only given us the responsibility to have dominion, He has given us the authority to do the same things Jesus did to help those in bondage to the curse.

The suffering we are asked to endure is not the results of the curse but the resistance and attacks of those opposing the full redemption.