

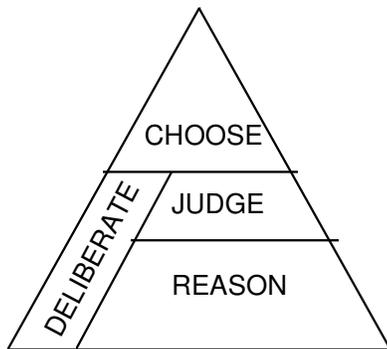
## 1689 LBCF – Chapter 9 Of Free Will Detailed Outline

- I. (1) The definition of human freedom
- II. The states of human freedom
  - A. (2) Free will in the state of innocence
  - B. (3) Free will in the state of sin
  - C. (4) Free will in the state of grace
  - D. (5) Free will in the state of glory

### Definition of Will:

That faculty of the mind by which we determine either to do or forbear an action; the faculty which is exercised in deciding, among two or more objects, which we shall embrace or pursue. The will is directed or influenced by the judgment. The understanding or reason compares different objects, which operate as motives; the judgment determines which is preferable, and the will decides which to pursue. In other words, we reason with respect to the value or importance of things; we then judge which is to be preferred; and we will to take the most valuable. These are but different operations of the mind, soul, or intellectual part of man. Will is often quite a different thing from desire.

### Illustration:



**Reason/Understanding** - distinguishes between good and evil; truth from falsehood; apprehends the real state of things. It doesn't select between things, it merely analyzes and determines the condition of things.

**Judgment** - compares ideas and determines their relationship; examines facts and arguments. It doesn't select between ideas, but does establish relationship between ideas.

**Will** - chooses which action or thing to pursue from what is presented by Understanding and Judgment. Will is often different from desire, for desire is an emotion that we often do not act upon.

### Man's Liberty and Ability in various States:

	Innocency	Fallen Man	Regenerate Man	Glorified Man	
<b>Liberty</b>	complete	complete	complete	complete	"may I..."
<b>Ability</b>	perfect ability	inability	ability, yet subject to sin	perfect ability	"can I..."

#### Books for further study:

Martin Luther, *The Bondage of the Will*\*\*

Jonathan Edwards, *A Serious Inquiry into the Freedom of the Will*

\*\* denotes a book in the church lending library

(#) – denotes specific paragraph of the confession that the outline refers to.