

## What Is God's Will for My Life? Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 49b

1. YOUR WILL BE DONE: The Lord's Prayer teaches us to pray for God's will to be done; but what is God's \_\_\_\_\_?

a. God's \_\_\_\_\_ will

| ...the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will. (Ephesians 1:11b)

| And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28)

b. God's \_\_\_\_\_ will

| The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law. (Deuteronomy 29:29)

2. BUT WHAT ABOUT...? Within the boundaries of God's revealed will, there is not a "will of God for such-and-such" that we need to \_\_\_\_\_ when making life decisions, nor are we praying for that to be made known when we pray "your will be done."

a. We pray for God's will to be done in the two senses noted above, but we do not pray for God to make \_\_\_\_\_ decisions for us in ordinary life. The Scriptures are clear that God wants us to use wisdom.

b. But sometimes that's scary! We need to be confident, first, that God's creation is \_\_\_\_\_ (Genesis 1:31).

c. We need to be confident, second, that we are God's \_\_\_\_\_, justified in Christ and being sanctified by the Spirit (Ephesians 1:5, 2:8-10).

3. HOW TO MAKE DECISIONS:

a. Know, love, and \_\_\_\_\_ what God's Word says (Deuteronomy 29:29).

b. Pray for \_\_\_\_\_ (James 1:5).

c. Be wise: be a faithful church member (Colossians 3:16); get \_\_\_\_\_ (Proverbs 11:14); honor your father and mother (Ephesians 6:2-3); be smart about how the world works (Proverbs).

| Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. (Colossians 3:16)

d. Just do \_\_\_\_\_ (Ecclesiastes 11:1-6).

e. Relax: you can't engineer a perfect outcome (Ecclesiastes, James 4:13); God has already \_\_\_\_\_ what you do (Ecclesiastes 9:7-10); your heavenly Father remembers you are dust (Psalm 103:14).

f. In time, God alone can – and will! – make everything \_\_\_\_\_ (Ecclesiastes 3:11; cf. 7:13).