

Student Guidelines for Freewill/Predestination 1/13/15

Resolution: Eternal election is the process by which God has predestined some to salvation and others to destruction.

General comments:

- Get some Systematic theology books to get arguments. They will have a section on free will, predestination, etc.
- Schaeffer: Has 7-volume series. Each section covers both sides. 2-volume series is abridged and not as good.
- Get series that supports your position, and then another that supports your opponent's.
- Affirmative team: Predestination.
- Negative team: Free will.

1. Affirmative opening argument:

2. Negative: Cross examination.

- Negative team can challenge quote that affirmative team gives. EG, maybe the theologian of the quote actually changed his mind later in his life. Bring this up. Judge may give you this point.

3. Negative: Opening.

- State resolution the way it is given, say you disagree with it, and then restate it to be what you want. It should be a positive statement (eg, People come to faith of their own free will and not because they are predestined) rather than simply inserting a "not" in the original resolution.

4. Affirmative: Cross examination.

5. Affirmative: First Rebuttal:

- Be sure that in your rebuttals you mention all the verses you want to use.

6. Negative: First Rebuttal

7. Affirmative: 2nd rebuttal:

- In rebutting a rebuttal, you may bring up more Scriptures you had not previously used. May not add new points.

8. Negative: 2nd rebuttal

9. Affirmative: Closing arg.

- In closing, you may not add ANYTHING new. No new verses, no new points. Be sure that in your rebuttals you mention all the verses you want to use.

10. Negative: Closing arg.

Opening:

- Affirmative especially should define terms now. You cannot define them later. Good words to define for this debate: election, predestination, free will, salvation, justification, new birth, regeneration, sanctification, imputation, impartation, faith, decisional regeneration

Rebuttals:

- If one team brings up a passage of Scripture, the other must dispute the interpretation of that same passage, or the judge will award the point to the first team!!! It is insufficient to simply throw up other passages.

Presenting evidence.

- Scripture itself. Always read Scripture to judges and tell meaning.
- Commentators on Scripture (not just my interpretation).
- Opposing team can ask for copy of your evidence during cross-examination only. Don't need to give written text of Scripture since opposing team should have it. But any commentators you should have a copy of. Each evidence on separate paper.