



# God Chose You: A Bible Study

John 15:12-17

Our Almighty Maker has created a universe of opportunities. The Lord God has given us almost unlimited options. His love lavishes manifold liberties and luxuries upon us. And our culture, maybe more than any other, appreciates freedom.

In fact, one might say we've come somewhat to idolize it. Our world often ignores responsibility in the name of independence. Human nature likes to abandon obligations for the sake of autonomy. There are those among us who claim it as choice to view death as a solution and use it on themselves or against each other.

But choice cannot solve all problems or save anyone from their own ultimate downfall. Choice can actually cause trouble of its own. And when practices such as abortion access and physician-assisted suicide become just another choice pretending it has no costs or consequences, then choice serves as language and utensil of death.

Nevertheless, there is a choice that gives infinite worth and universal purpose to human existence. There remains yet a choice that grants irrefutable identity to all human beings and indisputable importance to every human body. The choice that saves and works love and lets us live is one we don't make. The choice we need most isn't the choice we have to do but the choice we get to be, chosen instead of choosing.

The God of grace in the Gospel of Jesus Christ is pro-choice!

1. What are some of the most significant choices we make during our lives?
2. What situations can you recall when a person's been chosen? How does it feel? And can you remember a circumstance in which someone was rejected? How did that feel?
3. What are a few of the principal criteria the world utilizes to select or reject people (1 Samuel 16:7; Psalm 20:7; Proverbs 31:30)?
4. Whom and what does abortion select? Whom or what does it reject? What about assisted suicide? What other actions or practices attempt to address difficulties with death?
5. What choices do we actually have no control over (Ecclesiastes 8:8; Romans 7:19-20; Romans 8:8; John 6:44)?



6. What threatens to bring about our greatest rejection? Who needs to be chosen (Matthew 10:33; Psalm 51:5; Romans 3:23; Ephesians 2:1-3)?
7. How has the Almighty Maker chosen you into existence? How does your body declare it (Genesis 1:26-27; Psalm 100:3; Psalm 139:13; Jeremiah 1:5)?
8. What does it mean to be chosen by God (Romans 8:15-17, 29-30; 1 Peter 2:9; Romans 6:8)?
9. How has His Son our Savior chosen you into forgiveness? How does His body demonstrate it (John 1:14; Hebrews 2:14-16; Galatians 4:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11)?
10. Whom else, then, has the Lord God also chosen (1 Timothy 2:4; Romans 5:18-19; 1 Corinthians 1:28)?
11. How has your Heavenly Father chosen you into making a difference? How does our neighbor's body display it (John 15:16; Matthew 5:16; Ephesians 2:10; Matthew 25:37-40)?
12. How do even our sufferings offer assurance He's choosing us (Hebrews 4:15; Matthew 5:11-12; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10; Philippians 1:29)?
13. How can we show those experiencing surprise pregnancies God's choosing them?
14. How about those undergoing terminal diagnoses? Suffering disabilities? Unable to communicate or care for themselves?



## NOTES

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



# God Chose You: A Bible Study

John 15:12-17

Our Almighty Maker has created a universe of opportunities. The Lord God has given us almost unlimited options. His love lavishes manifold liberties and luxuries upon us. And our culture, maybe more than any other, appreciates freedom.

In fact, one might say we've come somewhat to idolize it. Our world often ignores responsibility in the name of independence. Human nature likes to abandon obligations for the sake of autonomy. There are those among us who claim it as choice to view death as a solution and use it on themselves or against each other.

But choice cannot solve all problems or save anyone from their own ultimate downfall. Choice can actually cause trouble of its own. And when practices such as abortion access and physician-assisted suicide become just another choice pretending it has no costs or consequences, then choice serves as language and utensil of death.

Nevertheless, there is a choice that gives infinite worth and universal purpose to human existence. There remains yet a choice that grants irrefutable identity to all human beings and indisputable importance to every human body. The choice that saves and works love and lets us live is one we don't make. The choice we need most isn't the choice we have to do but the choice we get to be, chosen instead of choosing.

The God of grace in the Gospel of Jesus Christ is pro-choice!

1. What are some of the most significant choices we make during our lives?

**Responses may vary. Examples include whom to marry, where to live, how to invest finances, which college to attend, which occupation to perform, which home or automobile to purchase, which congregation to join, which words to say when and to whom.**

2. What situations can you recall when a person's been chosen? How does it feel? And can you remember a circumstance in which someone was rejected? How did that feel?

**Responses may vary. Examples of chosen include picked for a team, offered a position, honored with an award, baptized into Christian Church, elected leader, becoming someone's significant other. It can feel exciting, fulfilling, intimidating, conflicted, relieving, even guilty or regretful. Examples of rejected include passed over for promotion, cut from team, excluded from party invitation, divorced or turned down for a date, bullied. It can feel painful, infuriating, relieving, regretful, numb or unbelievable, shocking.**



3. What are a few of the principal criteria the world utilizes to select or reject people (1 Samuel 16:7; Psalm 20:7; Proverbs 31:30)?

**Standards that human nature prefers and applauds include a particular appearance or affluence, power or popularity, skills, status, accomplishments, or charisma.**

4. Whom and what does abortion select? Whom or what does it reject? What about assisted suicide? What other actions or practices attempt to address difficulties with death?

**Abortion elevates oneself, one's immediate desires, and one's own unhealthy sexuality over any others who may be affected by it. This means it excludes or chooses against baby, baby's future siblings, grandparents, employers and clients and colleagues and peers who may be affected by the trauma to oneself, doctors and nurses and pharmacists and manufacturers who may not want to participate, journalists and researchers and officials and citizens in similar situations who may be influenced by one's abortion decision. Physician-assisted suicide operates the same, opting in favor of one's own anxieties and isolation while adversely affecting loved ones as well as neighbors suffering chronic pain, physical disabilities, depression, or terminal diagnoses. Other practices that follow this pattern include in vitro fertilization, surrogacy, germline genetic engineering, embryo-destroying experimentation, sexual promiscuity and perversions, and racism (among others).**

5. What choices do we actually have no control over (Ecclesiastes 8:8; Romans 7:19-20; Romans 8:8; John 6:44)?

**We cannot decide the timing of either our birth or our death. That right and responsibility belongs to the Lord God alone as our Almighty Maker. We cannot decide ourselves out of the evil that enslaves us or the trespasses that deaden us. We cannot choose in and of ourselves to please the Heavenly Father, belong to His family, or enter His kingdom.**

6. What threatens to bring about our greatest rejection? Who needs to be chosen (Matthew 10:33; Psalm 51:5; Romans 3:23; Ephesians 2:1-3)?

**Getting rejected by God our Father and Jesus our Savior poses the greatest threat to us. Without His compassion and forgiveness, we have no hope of either survival in this life or salvation in the life to come. Because of the iniquity inherited from our first parents, Adam and Eve, every genetic member of our human race needs Him to choose us out of our sinfulness.**



7. How has the Almighty Maker chosen you into existence? How does your body declare it (Genesis 1:26-27; Psalm 100:3; Psalm 139:13; Jeremiah 1:5)?

**God has chosen you into existence by creating humankind in the image of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He has chosen you into existence by intimately and meticulously knitting each cell of your body together in your mother's womb before you were born and even from the moment of fertilization.**

8. What does it mean to be chosen by God (Romans 8:15-17, 29-30; 1 Peter 2:9; Romans 6:8)?

**Almighty God choosing you secures both your life and your future. It rescues you from death and acquires for you an inheritance to reign in an everlasting new heavens and earth. It means He provides everything you need to support this body and protects you from all that endangers your hearts and tomorrows. It makes you beloved by Him and belonging to Him, gives you a place in His family and a part in His kingdom, and invites you into all that He is and has. And being chosen by God leads us forth in a life of righteous conduct and holy conversation.**

9. How has His Son our Savior chosen you into forgiveness? How does His body demonstrate it (John 1:14; Hebrews 2:14-16; Galatians 4:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11)?

**God became incarnate among us as an embryo and endured the entire spectrum of the human condition until His incapacitation by crucifixion. He joined His life to your every moment. He joined His body to your nature. He joined His blood to your flesh. He offered Himself as once-for-all sacrifice and substitute in your place. He physically died to take away our guilt and came back to life in His human body to bring us into His glory.**

10. Whom else, then, has the Lord God also chosen (1 Timothy 2:4; Romans 5:18-19; 1 Corinthians 1:28)?

**God's creating, redeeming, and connecting activities extend to the whole world. No human being comes into existence except through His will and work. His incarnation unites all human bodies—no matter their age, appearance, or abilities—to Himself in sanctity from conception to death. He especially favors those neighbors among us otherwise outcast from the world.**



11. How has your Heavenly Father chosen you into making a difference? How does our neighbor's body display it (John 15:16; Matthew 5:16; Ephesians 2:10; Matthew 25:37-40)?

**Every neighbor comes to us as gift and privilege, as God's own precious treasure whom He shares with us to bless. The neighbor's body has needs from the womb to the tomb, and this invites us to speak truth and show love and share life with them. Our Father and Savior places us among each other to witness and participate in His miraculous preserving. He baptizes His Holy Spirit into our bodies and lives to dwell in us as temples and act through us as instruments. We behold our Lord in our relationships with one another.**

12. How do even our sufferings offer assurance He's choosing us (Hebrews 4:15; Matthew 5:11-12; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10; Philippians 1:29)?

**Our Lord, as the one who became incarnate and experienced all of our weaknesses, draws especially near to us in our suffering. He identifies with us and makes us like Himself who sacrificed His body for the benefit of others. His atonement has already emptied our pain of any punishment, so He has reserved the worst for Himself to spare us from it. He achieves outcomes through our afflictions that outweigh the costs.**

13. How can we show those experiencing surprise pregnancies God's choosing them?

**We notice their situation and care about their existence. We engage them and listen to their experiences and fears. We share their sorrows and their celebrations. We embrace them into our community and assist them with both their emotional and material needs. We connect them with pregnancy resource centers. We receive them as gifts and treat their partners and little ones as privileges.**

14. How about those undergoing terminal diagnoses? Suffering disabilities? Unable to communicate or care for themselves?

**We reach out and check in to communicate with them. We accompany them in their sufferings and advocate for them to obtain necessary treatment and care. We connect them with medical professionals and hospice providers. We encourage them with the assurance God has purpose for their pain. We remind them He abides with them and will bring their hurt to its conclusion. We express our appreciation for the blessings they continue to embody to us, to humankind, and to the whole world.**



## NOTES

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---