

**Galatians 4:1-2; Adoption & Election**

An adult has the inner resources to govern his own actions and therefore functions under genuine humility. The child must have restraints put upon him for he has no inner restraint except from the enforced humility of pain and suffering. The child must remain under these restraints until he is able to reach majority status which occurs at a time determined by the father.

In eternity past, God in his omniscience, was able to determine those who would, in human history, accept Jesus Christ as personal Savior. These individuals He classified as the elect.

Although these few were predetermined in eternity past to be saved, there was no divine influence on their volition except for the common grace ministry of the Holy Spirit at Gospel Hearing. Because God is capable of knowing the thoughts, decisions, and actions of the human race before they historically occur, does not imply that God influenced them in any way.

In order to resolve the Angelic Conflict, volition must remain free. Therefore, the free will of man and the sovereignty of God must coexist by divine decree. And so, we learn from Ephesians that our election occurred in eternity past in the manner just described: