

I Am Not A Robot

Ponder: Free moral agency

Scripture: “Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve” (Joshua 24:15, NKJV).

Sometimes when you join a group on the internet or leave a message at a web site, you must first click on a box that says, “I am not a robot.” I don’t understand everything about internet robots, but I know some are harmless while others are designed to do malicious things. Either way, they just do what their creator programmed them to do. Evidently finding and clicking the box is something an internet robot can’t be programmed to do, so your click indicates you are a real person, not a robot.

Multitudes of sincere people believe and teach that human beings are little, if anything, more than robots. According to that false system, each of us was born totally depraved, lacking the ability even to desire to do right, much less to actually do it. We’re essentially pre-programmed to sin, yet God still condemns us for it! The injustice of such an arrangement seems self-evident

By contrast, God’s word teaches that He created us with free moral agency; we are not robots! Adam and Eve certainly were not pre-programmed to sin. While Satan tempted and deceived Eve, she nevertheless freely chose to believe him rather than God; and Adam, though not deceived, freely chose to go along with Eve.

Adam and Eve’s descendants (including you) were not pre-programmed to sin. Moses freely chose “to suffer affliction with the people of God” rather than “enjoy the passing pleasures of sin” (Hebrews 11:25). Joshua recognized that he and his people were free moral agents; they could choose to serve idols, or to serve the one true God (Joshua 24:15). The Lord, through Isaiah, condemned His people because they “did evil before My eyes, and chose that in which I do not delight” (Isaiah 65:12). They were not pre-programmed to sin, but did so by choice.

In the final analysis, you are not doomed to keep sinning because you were programmed that way from birth. What a relief! But neither can you excuse your sins by claiming “I just can’t help it!” You are a free moral agent. You are not a robot!

Song: “I Have Decided To Follow Jesus”

Prayer: Righteous Father, we praise You for Your wisdom in creating us with free moral agency. Please help us to exercise our freedom with wisdom by choosing to do your will. Forgive us when we fail to do that, we pray, in Jesus’ name, Amen.