

The Death of Charlie Kirk

By Dave DeWitt

There is a lady who is a regular commentator on a conservative news network who, after Charlie Kirk's murder, repeatedly said, "Why would God allow someone to assassinate such a good man as Charlie Kirk?" I'm not sure about this lady's Christianity, but, for sure, she is a conservative and a believer in God. And she is, I believe sincerely, confused about why God would let such a good man, with such a beautiful family, be killed. Since Kirk's death, several Christians have asked me about God's role in situations where Christians are killed for their faith.

The Christianity of Charlie Kirk

Charlie Kirk had a Christian testimony, and he was not afraid to publicly give it. He also distinguished between what he called a "soft gospel" (like, "Jesus loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life") and a gospel that includes a warning about sin and hell. But Kirk did not call himself an evangelist, missionary, pastor, or teacher. Kirk was a spokesman for conservative values, and an ardent Trump supporter in the 2024 election. Mainly, he took the conservative view to individual liberals on college campuses very effectively, especially on issues like the value of the traditional marriage, the dangers of diversity/equity/inclusion (DEI), transgender ideology, and "toxic feminism." His contribution was that he brought discussion, argument, and debate to the popular social issues of our day. Usually, these issues are just proclaimed. Kirk debated them, especially with the Gen Z population (currently between 13 and 28 years old as of 2025). And he debated them with the world watching.

Charlie Kirk was clear about his Christian testimony, but he did not usually go to college campuses to proclaim the gospel. It is okay to call him a martyr, but if the guy who shot him receives the death penalty, he could also be considered a martyr for his cause. [New Oxford American Dictionary] Charlie Kirk was not like, say, John Lennox, Ken Ham, Justin Peters, Sean McDowell (son of Josh McDowell) or Frank Turek, men who go to an audience to proclaim, explain, defend, and make a case for the Word of God. Kirk was a successful Christian businessman who developed a company (called "Turning Point USA") that debated conservative values, especially with young liberals (he called them "leftists") on college campuses. He was raised in the Assembly of God church. He and Erika attended a church which is part of the Calvary Chapel Association. His wife Erika graduated and is now pursuing a doctoral degree from Liberty University, a very conservative Bible-oriented school. Kirk was an influence for the gospel, unashamedly proclaiming Jesus Christ as his Savior. He died as an influential Christian. And it was primarily his values, which came from the Bible, that were labeled "hate speech" by the leftists.

It has long been said, "If you want to get along with people don't talk about religion or politics." Today, we could include abortion, homosexuality, transgenderism, Israel, socialism/capitalism, the role of women in almost anything, and almost anything with the word "black" in it. Politicians often say we should tolerate, compromise, and bring the country together. That has always meant the country gradually moved in the liberal direction. Today, many of the liberals have been replaced by leftists who have no intention of compromising on anything. But the same is true of the conservative position. The right side of the political spectrum also has no intention of compromising or tolerating. For example, do you know anyone who is willing to compromise their position on transgenderism, socialism, or Christianity? It has become almost impossible to discuss any significant issue. We have come to the place where both sides believe it is impossible to convince the other side. The objective now is not to convince them but to defeat them. We can talk about the weather, the ball game, or the hat Kate Middleton was wearing, but we cannot talk about significant moral issues, hardly at all. Charlie Kirk violated that rule and was killed for it.

The Ministry Method of Charlie Kirk

Kirk did something very few ministers and teachers do or have done throughout history. Most ministers, who *preach the word...reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction* (2 Timothy 4:2), do it to a group, hopefully a large group, who are usually friendly and have no opportunity to respond, question, or discuss the message. There was a time when that was quite effective. The Reformers often spoke to a large audience for a long time. The rules for the Lincoln/Douglas debates in 1858 said: “the first speaker spoke for an hour, the second speaker then spoke for an hour-and-a-half, the first speaker then had a half an hour to respond.” So, each debate took 3 hours, and there were 7 such debates. Can you imagine an audience sitting (or standing) for three hours of speaking? Today, most people cannot remember what the preacher said by the time they reach the parking lot.

But Charlie Kirk did something quite different. He took his message to a mostly hostile audience and focused on those who disagreed with him, inviting them to come forward and ask questions. His primary purpose was not to convince his adversaries but to allow them to make their point. He then responded to their point in such a way that the general audience, those present and listening with YouTube or some other form of social media, could hear the debate and decide for themselves. Kirk allowed a general audience to hear how flawed the leftist argument was and how he defeated it. If he convinced his opponent (and sometimes he did), that was just frosting on the cake.

Let’s think for a moment what Jesus did as a method of communication:

- He did miracles—water to wine, feeding 5000, walking on water, healing the blind, raising the dead. These were done primarily to prove He was the Son of God.
- He spoke to some large groups—four sermons are recorded. These were sometimes in metaphors and parables the audience did not understand.
- He taught His disciples personally away from the crowd.
- He had conversations with individuals, many of whom came to believe in Him.
- He confronted the Pharisees, Sadducees, scribes and elders of Israel, not to convert or convince them, but to allow His disciples, the crowd, and ultimately the whole world, to see how hypocritical they were.

Like the ministry of Jesus, Charlie Kirk took the debate to His adversaries, not trying to convince them but to show the world the error of their thinking. And He was killed for it.

Predestination, Free Will and the Killing of Charlie Kirk

This brings up the question of the involvement of God in Christian persecution and martyrdom. Obviously, Charlie Kirk was not the first Christian martyred for proclaiming the gospel. In the Bible, we learn that many of the Old Testament prophets, John the Baptist, Stephen, James the brother of John, and apparently all the apostles, except the Apostle John, were martyred for proclaiming their faith. All through history, believers have suffered, and some have been martyred, for proclaiming the gospel and the truth of the Bible. Consider especially the killing of Charlie Kirk, as we think about these questions. Why did somebody hate Kirk enough to kill him? What was the role of God in the murder of Charlie Kirk? Did God cause his murder? Did God allow his murder? Did the shooter do this as an act of free will? Was God in control of the shooter? Would it be good for us to try to stop the murder and good for God to predestine the murder?

Why Did Somebody Hate Charlie Kirk Enough to Kill Him?

For over 2000 years now, Christians have been hated for two reasons: they proclaim an exclusive gospel and an inerrant Bible. There was a Roman official during the great Christian persecution of the A.D. 300s who said that he could not understand why Christians were hated and persecuted. He pointed out that they teach peace, grace, mercy, forgiveness and love, even loving your enemy. They do not promote war

or fight for territory. Yet they are more persecuted than all the religions in Rome. Well, of course, the answer is they would not bow down to Caesar, and they claimed to teach the truth.

John 14:6, *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."*

Acts 4:12, [Peter said] *"And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."*

John 17:17, [Jesus prayed] *"Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth."*

Psalms 119:160, [David said] *The sum of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous ordinances is everlasting.*

God Is Sovereign Over Everything, and We Have Free Will

I want to suggest that there are two things which are 100% true: (1) God is completely sovereign over all things, and (2) we have complete free will to choose from what is set before us. If God is not sovereign, then He is not God. The sovereignty of God can be viewed (legitimately, I would say) in two ways. One is that God is not sovereign over everything, such as all the cars going through a busy intersection or the Ming Dynasty in China in the 1500s. But God is sovereign over what He chooses to be, like Israel and the church. The second view (which I favor) is God is sovereign over everything. The reason I think so is He is a Lord of hosts. Whether we look outward to the galaxies of the universe or inward to the workings of a living cell, God is a God of infinite detail, so there is no reason to doubt He is sovereign over that detail.

Matthew 10:29-30, *"Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father... Even the hairs of your head are all numbered."*

The Bible Teaches the Sovereignty of God

Romans 8:28, *And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.*

Ecclesiastes 3:11, *He has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also set eternity in their heart, yet so that man will not find out the work which God has done from the beginning even to the end*

Genesis 50:20, *"You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive."*

Job 42:2, *"I know that You can do all things, and that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted."*

Psalms 103:19, *"The LORD has established His throne in the heavens, and His kingdom rules over all."*

Psalms 139:16, *"In Your book were all written the days that were ordained for me, when as yet there was not one of them."*

Isaiah 46:9-10, *"I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning... My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all My purpose."*

Daniel 4:35, *"All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and He does according to His will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay His hand or say to Him, 'What have you done?'"*

John 19:11, [Jesus said to Pilate] *"You would have no authority over Me at all unless it had been given you from above."*

Acts 17:24-26, *"The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth... made from one man every nation of mankind... having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place."*

Romans 8:28, *"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 9:20-21, *On the contrary, who are you, O man, who answers back to God? The thing molded will not say to the molder, "Why did you make me like this," will it? Or does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for common [lit. dishonor] use?*

Ephesians 1:11, *“In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will.”*

The Bible Teaches the Free Will of Mankind

We also have a free will to choose. Without a free will to choose, we cannot be judged. Judgment assumes we understand a morality, and we have free will to make moral choices. Without free will choice, human morality could not exist. Of course, our choices are limited to the realm we are placed in by the will of a sovereign God. We did not choose our birth sex, how intelligent we would be, what country or nationality or ethnic group we would be born into, whether we would be short or tall, healthy or sick, good looking or ugly. And we are not held accountable for any of that. But we can make choices, given the situation we are in. We can make social choices, career choices, spousal choices, and moral choices, all with a free will.

Deuteronomy 30:19, *“I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have placed before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live...”*

Joshua 24:15, *“But if it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the Euphrates River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”*

Genesis 2:16–17, *“The LORD God commanded the man, saying, ‘From any tree of the garden you may freely eat; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for on the day that you eat from it you will certainly die.’”*

Isaiah 1:19–20, *“If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the best of the land; but if you refuse and rebel, you will be devoured by the sword.”*

Proverbs 1:29–31, *“Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the LORD. They did not accept my advice, they disdainfully rejected every rebuke from me. So they shall eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own schemes.”*

John 7:17, *“If anyone is willing to do His will, he will know about the teaching, whether it is of God, or I am speaking from Myself.”*

Revelation 3:20, *“Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me.”*

Galatians 5:13, *“For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but serve one another through love.”*

James 4:7–8, *“Submit therefore to God. But resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come close to God and He will come close to you.”*

Conclusion

Q. Why did somebody hate Kirk enough to kill him?

A. Because he represented a biblical morality.

Q. What was the role of God in the murder of Charlie Kirk?

A. God is sovereign over everything, including the murder of Charlie Kirk.

Q. Did God cause his murder?

A. No.

Q. Did God allow his murder?

A. “Allow” is not a good perspective. “Allow” sounds like God is a secondary player in the situation, rather than sovereign over it.

Q. Did the shooter do this as an act of free will?

A. Yes.

Q. Was God in control of the shooter?

A. The shooting was in the sovereign plan of God, but it is the shooter’s unhindered free will that pulled the trigger.