# Who's really in charge here?

No one splits hairs more than I, when it comes to Bible interpretation and theology. At the same time, we need to distinguish between what is "essential" or "foundational" and what is not. I am referring to basic truths of Scripture on which most can agree. At the same time, I believe that "diversity" of thought and opinion is a good thing. It keeps us humble, knowing that we ourselves do not have all the right answers. If we can become like children and just focus on God's love and love him back, and try to live our lives accordingly, we can find great happiness and joy in our lives and our worship of God, and are freed from fear of what might happen to us if we get some of the "finer nuances" of theology wrong.

When I was in college, a Christian friend, who was also a skeptic, asked me this question. If those who reject Christ spend eternity in Hell, what happens if a native in Africa gets a "lousy missionary," and rejects Christ because the message was presented in the wrong way? Well, at that time, I had no answer for him. Today, I would answer in this way. No one will be going to Hell, or Heaven because of anything I do or say. No one should have to live with that burden. Some word or action on my part might be the immediate, or "surface" cause of someone accepting or rejecting Christ, but the underlying cause is God, the Holy Spirit. It all boils down to our belief in the Sovereignty of God. Who is really in charge? In whose hands does the destiny of our souls rest, God's or ours? This is another way of approaching the old Calvinism vs. Arminianism debate. The Calvinists are right about the sovereignty of God, and the Arminians are right about God's good intentions for all mankind.