

Basic Doctrine Class
Lesson One

The Doctrines of Sin and Salvation

1. The Problem of Sin

- def. "sin is anything that is contrary to the character of God"
- a. sin came into the world when Adam and Eve disobeyed God
 - b. all of mankind was in Adam participating in the first sin (Rom 5:12)
 - c. the sin nature is transmitted from parent to child
 - d. if this doesn't seem fair, realize that we all choose to individually sin (Isa. 53:6)

2. The Effect of Sin

- a. Romans 3:23-- For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
- b. Ephesians 2:1--And you were dead in your trespasses and sins.
- c. Romans 6:23-- For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

3. The Solution to Sin

- a. Hebrews 9:22-- And according to the Law, one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.
- b. Luke 19:10-- For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.

4. The Means of Salvation

- a. Substitution-- Christ died in the place of sinners
 - i. Matthew 20:28-- just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many
 - ii. 1 Peter 3:18-- For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit;
 - iii. 2 Corinthians 5:21-- He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.
- b. Redemption-- Christ paid the ransom price
 - i. Galatians 3:13-- Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law
- c. Propitiation-- God was satisfied with the death of Christ; the need for justice was met
 - a. Romans 1:18-- For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.
 - ii. Romans 3:25-- Whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed.
- d. Forgiveness/Justification-- We are declared righteous before God
 - a. Colossians 2:13-- When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions.
 - ii. Romans 5:1,9-- Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ . . . Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him
- e. Reconciliation-- Man's state before God has changed
 - a. 2 Corinthians 5:19-- God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them.
 - ii. Romans 5:10-- For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.
- f. End of the Law-- The Law is no longer the means of having a right standing before God
 - a. Romans 10:4-- For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

5. The Recipients of Salvation

- a. Election

1. Acts 13:48
- ii. Romans 9:18-21
- iii. Ephesians 1:11

*Don't try to resolve conflicts with the doctrine of election by reason, but rest on the fact that it must be true for it is taught in Scripture

b. Conversion

a. John 3:16-- For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

i. Ephesians 2:8-9-- For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

ii. Romans 10:9-- if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;

6) The Security of Salvation

1. John 10:28-30
2. Ephesians 4:30
3. Romans 8:29-30

*In order to lose one's salvation, all of these works of God would have to be undone. The Bible clearly teaches that this is impossible.

Basic Doctrine Class
Lesson Two

The Doctrine of God

Definition: "God is spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in His being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth." (Westminster Shorter Catechism)

Knowing God

1. God is the creator of heaven and earth.

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. (Genesis 1:1)

2. We can know God because he revealed to us who He is.

a. General revelation -- For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. (Romans 1:20)

b. Special revelation -- Jesus, the Son of God, came to earth and made Himself known. We can know God today through the Bible.

c. Since God has already revealed to us who He is, we should know him through his revelation only (i.e. through the bible). God forbid us to make any image or worship that image. (The second commandment, Exodus 20:2)

THE TRINITY

There is only one God, but in the unity of the Godhead there are three eternal and coequal persons, the same in substance but distinct in subsistence.

1. Unity within the Godhead

a. Deuteronomy 6:4-- Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one!

b. 1 Kings 8:60-- So that all the peoples of the earth may know that the LORD is God; there is no one else.

2. All three members of the Trinity can be found in the Old Testament

a. Father, Lord God (Gen 3:8, 1 Chron 29:10, Isaiah 63:16)

b. Spirit of God (Gen 1:2, Psalm 51:11)

c. Jesus appeared as "The Angel of the Lord" (Gen 16, 22, 31; Ex 3)

3. All three members of the Trinity can be found in the New Testament

a. all 3 persons are recognized as God (John 6:27; Heb 1:8; Acts 5:3-4)

b. the 3 persons are associated equally and as one (Matt 28:19, 2 Cor 13:14)

Summary

-While we will never fully be able to understand the Trinity we can know and believe that there is only one God, who is made up of three persons. All three persons are equal and have always existed.

GOD THE FATHER

Most of the time the Bible speaks of God, it is referring to God the Father.

1) Primary Names

a. Jehovah or Yahweh - self-existent one

b. Elohim - strong one

c. Adonai - Lord

1. The Decree of God - God the Father is sovereignly in control of everything that has, does, or will happen in all of the universe

Def. God's eternal purpose based on the counsel of His own will, whereby for His own glory he has foreordained all that comes to pass."
(Ephesians 1:11)

JESUS THE SON

The doctrine of Christ is the foundation of Christianity. From Genesis to Revelation the most important theme of the Bible is Christ. Christ is the way to the Father. Salvation comes only through him.

1. His incarnation (when the son took on human flesh)

- a. He had a nature that was genuinely and completely human.
- b. He was still fully and perfectly God.
- c. There was a permanent union of the two natures; Christ always acted as one person through His two natures.

2. His sinlessness

- a. Hebrews 4:15-- For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.
- b. 2 Cor 5:21-- He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

3. Reasons for Christ's coming to earth

- a. To provide salvation for mankind (John 3:16, 2 Corinthians 5:21)
- b. To give an example for living (1 Peter 2:21)
- c. To destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8)

4. His present ministry

- a. intercession (Rom 8:34, 1 John 2:1)
- b. head of the church (Colossians 1:18)
- c. lord of all creation (Ephesians 1:20-22; 1 Peter 3:22)

THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is not just a force or a power that comes from God. He is as much of a person as the Father and Son are, and the three together equally make up the Trinity.

1. His Work in Salvation

- a. convicting (John 16:8)
- b. regeneration (Titus 3:5)
- c. indwelling (1 Corinthians 6:19)
- d. baptism (1 Corinthians 12:13)
- e. sealing (Ephesians 1:13-14)
- f. filling (Ephesians 5:18)

2. Gifts of the Holy Spirit (Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:8-10, 28-30; Ephesians 4:11)

- a. The gifts are God-give abilities for service
- b. Every believer has at least one. (1 Peter 4:10)

Basic Doctrine Class

Lesson Three

The Doctrines of BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

BAPTISM

Definition: The literal meaning of the verb baptize is "to dip in" or "to wash." The Christian is

baptized in order to symbolically identify himself with Christ's death, burial and resurrection

1. WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

Anyone who believes in Jesus should be baptized.

Acts 2:38--Peter replied, "repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven (another possible translation is because your sins are forgiven). And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Hence anyone who repents is ready to be baptized. There is no additional requirement.

There are examples in the bible that baptism followed immediately after conversion:

a. Baptism of the Ethiopian eunuch. (Acts 8:26-40)

b. Baptism of the jailer and his family. (Acts 16:23-33)

There is therefore no need for anyone who has believed to become a "better Christian" before he/she can be baptized. .

2. WHY BAPTISM?

1. To obey Christ

Matthew 28:19-20-- Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you.

2. Jesus himself was baptized to set an example for us.

Matthew 3:13-15--Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented.

Jesus did not sin. So there is really no need for him to be baptized. But having become man, he chose to fulfill all righteousness, that is, he would do everything that a man should do. Therefore, after we have believed in Jesus, there is no reason why we should refuse to be baptized

3. To follow the pattern of New Testament saints

Acts 8:12-- But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike.

"The idea of an unbaptized Christian is not entertained in Scripture." (Bruce)

"It appears that the New Testament writers assumed the idea that under normal circumstances every believer in Jesus would be baptized." (Barbieri) (Mark 16:16)

4. To associate ourselves with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection

Romans 6:3-4-- Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

Colossians 2:12-- having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

Thus, baptism signifies:

- a. Dying with Jesus – the penalty of our sin has been paid since we have already died for it.
- b. Being buried with Jesus – the old life is over.
- c. Being raised with Jesus – the beginning of a new life.

*It is important to remember that baptism is not a requirement for salvation. We are saved only by faith and not by anything we do. However, baptism is a command of Christ and therefore it is not optional.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

1 Corinthians 11:23-28-- For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper, he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death, until he comes. Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup

1. The purpose of the Lord's supper is to remember Him and to proclaim His death.
2. Only believers are to participate in this sacred remembrance.
3. We should examine ourselves and confess our sins before we take the Lord's Supper.

Basic Doctrine Class

Lesson Four

The Doctrines of THE CHURCH

THE CHURCH

1. What the church isn't.

- a. The church is not a building.
- b. The church is not a social gathering

2. What the church is.

The church is the body of Christ. (Ephesians 1:22-23) Being a body, the church has

- a. a head -- The head of the church is Jesus Christ. (Colossians 1:18)
- b. many parts -- each believer is a part of this body. (1 Corinthians 12:12)

1. There is only one church (since there is only one body)

There is one body and one Spirit -- just as you were called to one hope when you were called -- one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. (Ephesians 4:4-6)

2. Keep the unity of the church

There is only one church. However, the church has many members and the members can be very different. We should therefore make the effort to keep the unity of the church by being humble, gentle, patient and bearing one another in love. (Ephesians 4:2-3)

3. Growth of the church

Since the church is a body, it is living and it can grow. The growth is not in number only but in maturity. God gives the church gifts so that the church can be built up to become mature. The church is mature when it reaches unity in faith. (Ephesians 4:11-12)

- a. Gifts: God gives gifts to each member of the church. A body has different parts but all parts are indispensable. Likewise, the gifts are different but are all indispensable. Each member has different gift and we should not despise one another. (1 Corinthians 12:14-26)
- b. Service: God gives gifts to the church for works of service. (We should never use gifts for our selfish ambition.) Every member of the church should therefore use his/her gift to serve the church. Each part does its work and the church will grow and build itself up.

4. Possible problems of the church

a. Schism

How to prevent schism?

- * Be humble, gentle, patient and bearing one another in love. (Ephesians 4:2)
- * Each of us should grow up into Christ. We can only have a good relationship with other brothers and sisters if we have a good relationship with the Lord. (Ephesians 4:15)

b. Heresy

How to prevent heresy?

- * To grow in maturity, that is, to reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God. (Ephesians 4:13)
- * To speak the truth in love. (Ephesians 4:15)

5. The church is holy

- The church is the holy bride of Christ. (Ephesians 5:26-27, Revelation 19:6-8)
- To be holy means to be blameless, to be separated and dedicated to God.

6. Functions of the church

- include worship, prayer, evangelism, fellowship.

Basic Doctrine Class

Lesson Five

THE DOCTRINE OF the bible and prayer

THE BIBLE

1. The bible is the word of God

The bible is inspired by God. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

2. We believe in the whole bible.

Since the whole bible is inspired by God, we believe in everything written in it. We don't add words to it nor do we delete any words from it. (Revelation 22:18-19)

3. We believe in the inerrancy the infallibility of the bible.

Though the bible is written by human authors, the true author is the Holy Spirit. (See Hebrews 3:7) We believe that God will keep the bible in a way so that the words written by the human authors are without mistakes.

4. Why should we read the bible?

Since we believe in God, we should know who He is and what His will is. The only inspired words of God are written in the bible. We should therefore read the bible regularly and diligently. (See again 2 Timothy 3:16-17) As children of God, we have a new life in God. But our new life begins like a baby. A baby needs nourishment to grow. Likewise, our spiritual life needs spiritual nourishment to grow. The bible provides that spiritual nourishment. (1 Peter 2:2)

5. How should we read the bible?

The bible is written in words that ordinary people can understand. Therefore we can read it and understand it just like any other book. Furthermore, we should read it with faith and obedience. We need faith because part of it is about things that we have not seen (see John 3:12) and it contains promises that have not yet been fulfilled. We need to obey the commands written in it because they are from God.

Because the bible was written a long time ago and originally in languages that most of us are not familiar with, we may sometimes need to make some extra effort to correctly interpret the bible. The correct method for interpreting the bible can be summarized as being "grammatical" and "historical". We should pay attention to

- * The meaning of words
- * The sentence structure
- * The context
- * The historical background.

When we see a passage that is difficult to understand, we should be careful not to distort its meaning. (2 Peter 3:16) Also, we should not interpret the bible allegorically.

PRAYER

1. What is prayer?

* Prayer is presenting our requests to God. (Philippians 4:6)

* Prayer is opening the door when Jesus knocks on it. Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me. (Revelation 3:20)

2. Why should we pray?

We pray not because God does not know our need nor is it because He is reluctant to grant what we request. He knows what we need and he is happy to grant us what we request. Actually he is knocking on our door but he won't come in unless we open the door. We should pray because this is our response to God by opening the door.

3. How should we pray?

Sometimes we pray publicly in the church. But we should pray privately everyday. When you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. (Matthew 6:6)

4. Praying in the name of Jesus

Jesus has promised, "I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name." (John 16:23) We can present all our requests to God in our prayer and He will answer our prayer because He cares. We can also pray for others. In fact, praying for others is one of our most important ministries. We should not, however, ask God anything to satisfy our own selfish ambition or desire. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. (James 4:3)

Basic Doctrine Class

Lesson Six

THE DOCTRINE OF CHRISTIAN LIVING

1. Putting off the old self and putting on the new self

You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. (Ephesians 4:22-24)

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! (2 Corinthians 5:17)

After we have believed in the Lord, we have a new life in Christ. We should therefore leave behind all our old belief and old habits and we should have new belief and new habits.

The old self is corrupted by its deceitful desires. The desires are deceitful because they appear to be able to bring you happiness, but they will actually only bring you sorrow. Before we know God, we did what we wanted to do. We thought that we were free but in fact we were slaves to sin. Now we should offer ourselves to God as "slaves to righteousness" (Romans 6:19).

2. Offer yourself to God as a living sacrifice

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God -- which is your spiritual worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is -- his good, pleasing and perfect will. (Romans 12:1-2)

This command is to every Christian because we have all experienced God's mercy. Note that Paul said that this sacrifice is holy and pleasing to God. He did not say that we should become holy before we sacrifice ourselves to God. Rather, our sacrifice is holy. Remember that holiness is dedication to God. So when we sacrifice ourselves to God, this sacrifice is holy. Furthermore, we are not sacrificing our old self to God because our old self is sinful and cannot be pleasing to God. Rather, we are sacrificing our new self to God. Our new self is "a new creation" in God and is therefore pleasing to God.

Since we have sacrificed ourselves to God, we are no longer our own master. Some people, before they knew God, did what they wanted to do and did not want anybody to tell them what they should do. Now, after we have believed in God, we call Him our Lord. This means that He is Lord over my whole being. We should therefore do everything according to God's will. We should not conform to the pattern of this world but rather be transformed by the renewing of mind.

3. The greatest commandment: Love your God and love your neighbor

Jesus replied, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 23:37-39)

To God

- a. Obedient (Romans 6:17, Acts 4:19)
- b. Faithful (Matthew 25:21, Revelation 2:10)

To people

- a. Love (Matthew 22:39)
- b. Accept one another (Romans 15:7)
- c. Forgive (Matthew 18:21-22)
- d. Love the wife, submit to the husband (Ephesians 5:22-25)
- e. Obey the parents in the Lord (Ephesians 6:1)
- f. Bring up the children in the training and instruction of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4)
- g. Serve wholeheartedly in the work (Ephesians 6:5-7)
- h. Submit to the governing authorities (Romans 13:1)

**Important Note: None of the above are conditions for salvation. However, they should all be present in the believer's life. "Faith without works is dead."

4. The great commission (Matthew 28:18-20)

Therefore go and name disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.

Therefore, the believer has a responsibility to tell others about Christ.