



Doctrine Discussion Guide |

Week 13 | Salvation

If a friend came to you and asked how to become a Christian, in the most simple way, what are some of the key things you would tell them?

Read the CF Statement of Belief

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died and fully paid the penalty for our sins as our substitute to make atonement before God. He was raised from the dead on the third day and justifies all who believe on Him by faith alone. Salvation is found in none other than Jesus Christ. *1 Corinthians 15:3-5; 1 John 2:2*

Theological Truths

- **Salvation** is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.
- **Justification:** A legal declaration by God that we have a righteous standing before him based solely on our faith in Jesus. This happens at the moment of our belief in Jesus. (*Romans 5:1*)
- **Sanctification:** The progressive action of God by which he changes our hearts and transforms us into people who reflect the character of Jesus. This happens throughout our lives until we die or Jesus returns again. (*Romans 6:22*)
- **Glorification:** The point in time in which God removes all sin from our lives and gives us new resurrected bodies. This happens either after death or at the second coming of Jesus. (*1 Corinthians 15:51-54*)
- **Penal Substitutionary Atonement:** The doctrine that Christ died on the cross as a substitute for sinners. God imputed the guilt of our sins to Christ, and he, in our place, bore the punishment that we deserve. This was a full payment for sins, which satisfied both the wrath and the righteousness of God, so that He could forgive sinners without compromising His own holy standard. (*John 3:16; Ephesians 2:4-5; Hebrews 12:2*)

Questions for discussion

- Which of the above truths are most new to you?
- Which of these do you have questions about?
- What is the significance of God being the primary actor in all of the above aspects of salvation?

Passages for Study

Ephesians 2:8-9

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

- What are we saved from?
- What is grace? What does it mean that we are saved by grace?
- Why is it significant that it is a gift and not by works?
- What is faith? What does it mean that we are saved through faith?
- What doesn't save us? Why is this important?

1 John 5:11-13

11 And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. 13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.

- Where is eternal life found?
- Who has eternal life? Who does not have eternal life?
- What must we do to have eternal life?
- Is it possible to know with certainty that you have eternal life? Why or why not?

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures...

- Why are these historic realities central to our salvation?
- Why is Jesus rising from the dead so vital?

Romans 1:16-17

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

- What is the gospel?
- What is it powerful for?
- Who does it apply to?

Read the Big Idea:

We want you to know for certain that you have eternal life through Jesus Christ.

- Have you ever doubted your salvation? What causes us to doubt our salvation?
- Why is our salvation secure? (also see *Philippians 1:6; Romans 8:1, 38-39; John 10:27-29*)
- How does it change your outlook knowing that your salvation is secure?
- How would you answer the opening question now?