

What are the doctrines that explain the Gospel?

1. **Overview of the Doctrines of Grace:**

- a. **Grace:** sinners merit no attention by God. Rom. 5:8, while we were in sin Christ died. We were children of wrath (Eph. 2:2-3) and enemies of God (Rom. 5:10).
- b. **Election:** God chose us in Christ (Eph. 1:1-4) and appointed those who would be saved (Acts 13:48), according to the good pleasure of His will (Eph. 1:5).
- c. **Atonement:** the hub of the other doctrines. Jesus' substitutionary sacrifice pays the penalty for our sin to bring us to God, 1 Pet. 3:18. Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins, Heb. 9:22.
- d. **Divine Calling:** there is an external call and an internal call. The external call is given to those who hear it the Gospel. The internal call is a drawing by the Holy Spirit, also called an effectual call, that brings them to salvation, John 3:8, Rom. 8:28.
- e. **Conversion:** the human response to a changed heart. Repentance in the OT is turning away from sin. In the NT it is the changing of the mind, Mark 1:15, "Repent and believe."
- f. **Regeneration:** opening of the mind and heart prior to receiving faith to believe (Titus 3:5). It is being "born again," John 3:8. We are new creations, 2 Cor. 5:17. No one seeks after God, Rom. 3:11. 1 Cor. 2:14, the natural man cannot understand the things of God.
- g. **Union with Christ:** we are one with Christ, John 17:22. We identify with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection, Gal. 2:20. Nothing can separate me from His love, Rom. 8:39.
- h. **Justification:** because of Christ's payment for sin, we have been credited with His righteousness, Jer. 23:6, 2 Cor. 5:21. There is no condemnation for sin, Rom. 8:1.
- i. **Sanctification: 3 Aspects of Sanctification:** 1) Positional: completely justified in the courts of God, Heb. 10:14. We have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Christ, Heb. 10:10. 2) Progressive: being conformed to the image of Christ, Rom. 8:29, 2 Cor. 3:18. 3) Perfected: the ultimate consummation at death or rapture, 1 John 3:2.
- j. **Preservation:** it is the work of God to keep us and protect our salvation and inheritance, 1 Pet. 1:3-5, John 10:29. **Perseverance:** is the Christian's duty to be diligent to make their calling and election sure, 2 Pet. 1:10, Phil. 2:12-13. The patience of the saints to keep the commandments of God and faith of Jesus in trials, Rev. 14:12, James 1:2, 1 Pet. 5:10.
- k. **Glorification:** absolute certainty of Christlikeness and reigning with Christ, Rom. 8:30. The glory Christ has, has been given to us, John 17:22, being one with the Father.

2. **Highlights of 4 Doctrines of Grace:**

- a. **Atonement:** particular atonement is effectual for all those God has given to the Father to be saved. The power of the cross guarantees that all those saved would be changed, restored, sanctified, and glorified. If Christ died for everyone in the world, then His work on the cross would have failed many, many times. Atonement exalts the work of Christ by saving everyone He died for as He intended, John 17:9-10.
- b. **Conversion/Repentance:** it is a sign of God's grace (Rom. 2:4) to see our sin and abhor evil and our sins, Rom. 12:9.
- c. **Justification:** We stand by faith in the grace of God that we are justified as though we have never sinned, Rom. 5:1-2. The Law condemns, but Christ justifies.
- d. **Regeneration:** we are born from above, John 3:3. We are regenerated by the Holy Spirit, Tit. 3:5.

3. **How is the Love of Christ Found in Salvation:** God is infinitely perfect and can't suffer as Christ is divine. He came from an infinite height to bring an infinite love. God became a man to suffer on our behalf, His love for us is infinite.
4. **3 Applications from this Sermon:** 1) **3 Aspects of the Great Commission**, from Matthew 28:18-20, a) It is the church's divine right to bear witness of the person of Christ. b) It is the mission of the whole church to make disciples. c) Jesus promises His abiding presence in our efforts to make disciples, even in persecution, Luke 10:3, John 15:20. Christ will build His church. 2) **Organic Evangelism:** 1 Pet. 3:15, be ready to give a defense of the Gospel and of the hope within you. What would make unbelievers ask questions? 1 Pet. 1:3-9 gives us reasons. 1) Living Hope: V3, because we are born again. We are heirs of an incorruptible inheritance which is eternal life with God. 2) Power: our power is God's power to walk through a life with pain and suffering with a smile because heaven is coming. 3) Joy: V6 & 8, we have joy in our trials and persecution. 4) Love for Christ: V8, we have not seen Him but love Him. 1 Peter 2:11-12, our conduct being excellent gives witness to Christ's life in us. 3) **Gospel Pleading:** 2 Tim. 4:5, Paul tells Timothy to do the work of an evangelist, begging and urging the lost to consider Christ.
5. **Revisit the Doctrine of Regeneration:** it is the moment I saw the truth and believed. It places all the glory, honor, and credit solely with God and none with us.

Further Discussion and Application

Organic evangelism is effective at making disciples as the church is commanded in Matthew 28:18-20. Why/How does our godly conduct and the hope we possess in Christ give us gospel opportunities? What things in our lives should we share with others to give us these opportunities?

Pleading with unbelievers to consider Christ can be a difficult task. When the fear of man is removed, how bold can we be to urge people to come to Christ? What opportunities can we make use of to plead for our loved ones to come to Christ? How might we fashion our prayers and blessings over meals to include a pleading for the Gospel? Write out that prayer.

The doctrines of grace gives us great confidence in our salvation. We see the work of God alone to bring us and keep our salvation. We see His plan to transform us through His Spirit and His Word. Share what you have learned from each of the doctrines and how you have applied them in your walk with Christ. What are the effects of the Gospel in your life?