

Baptist Beliefs: Man, Salvation, God's Purpose of Grace

Man

1. Created by God, in the Image of God
 - a. Created as sinless.
 - b. Created with spirit *Deuteronomy 10:12; Psalm 29:2, 42:1, 130:1*
 - i. As a result, has moral consciousness and the ability to know and worship God. *Romans 2:15; 1 Corinthians 8:7*
 - c. Body is a gift from God and is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who dwells in us.
 - i. Should care for our bodies out of respect for God.
 - ii. Physical needs, desires, pleasures, pains remind us of dependence on God & His revelation. *2 Corinthians 12:7-10*
2. Created male and female *Genesis 1:27*
 - a. Two distinct genders with distinct physical and mental traits.
 - b. Psychology / Sociology vs. Biblical definition
 - i. Sex – Biological or physical distinctions.
 1. Male
 2. Female
 - ii. Gender – Learned behavior through process of socialization ie/ “gender identity”.
 1. Can impact how a person manifests their “orientation” based on the influences of how they are raised.
 - a. How does this impact single parent raised children?
 - c. Created to be lifelong committed partners. *Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:5-6; Mark 10:8-9*
3. God breathed life into. *Genesis 2:7*
4. Willfully chose to sin (free will). *Genesis 2:16-17; 3:1-7, 17-19, 23-24*
5. Fellowship restored. *John 3:16; Romans 5:8, 10:13*

Salvation

Sin separates us from God, God's judgment against sin is a barrier that cannot be overcome or resolved on their own. *Isaiah 64:6*

God had to atone for our sins through Christ's substitution. *Mark 10:45*

Grace – We are saved through God's unmerited favor, and affirms our absolute dependence on God. We do not deserve salvation and can do nothing to earn it. *Ephesians 2:8-9*

Faith – To accept or receive Christ as both Lord and Savior and confess Him as such.
Romans 10:9-10

1. Redemption
 - a. Freely offered to all that accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. *Luke 19:10, John 1:29, 1 Corinthians 15:3*
 - b. By faith, through grace.
2. Regeneration
 - a. Change of heart through conviction of sin and response of repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. *John 3:3, Acts 2:38, 17:30, 26:20; 2 Corinthians 5:17, 1 Peter 1:3, 1:23*
3. Justification
 - a. Full forgiveness and restoration of the relationship of peace and favor with God. *Romans 3:21-26, 4:5*
4. Sanctification
 - a. The setting apart of the believer for God's purposes progressing towards moral and spiritual maturity brought through the Holy Spirit's guidance. *Hebrews 5:12-14*
5. Glorification
 - a. Culmination of salvation and final abiding place of the redeemed. *2 Corinthians 4:17; 1 John 3:2*

God's Purpose of Grace

Doctrine of Election – How God's grace brings salvation to His people. *Luke 22:20; John 6:37, 44; Ephesians 1:11-12*

D. L. Moody thought that election meant this: "God chose me for himself, but the devil chose me for himself. My choice is the tie-breaker."

1. God wants all to be saved.
2. God *COULD* save us all.
3. BUT, God created us with *FREE-WILL*
 - a. Free Will means we have the ability to choose sinless or sinful.
 - b. We chose sin.
 - c. We face God's wrath and judgement.
 - d. But grace – allows us the choice to follow and obey His commands.

Not the same as pre-destination. Humans have the freedom and responsibility to choose to accept or reject the truths of God. *John 3:15-16; John 5:24; Romans 10:9-13; Revelation 22:17*

God's love endures to the end. *Romans 8:38-39*

Salvation endures to the end. *John 5:24; Philippians 1:6; 1 Peter 1:3-5*

Can there be false faith – *Luke 8:4-15; 1 John 2:19*