

Crucial Questions

Who Will Receive Salvation?

CONNECT:

With one more week in this series, what has been your favorite discussion or topic so far?

PREPARE:

When you think of who will be in heaven, how have you answered that in the past? We've mentioned this quote attributed to St. Augustine throughout this series, "In the essentials - unity; in non-essentials - liberty; in all things - charity". Why is this crucial question considered an "essential"? What have been some of the "non-essentials" in this series?

STUDY AND DISCUSS:

- Read Psalm 3:8. How is this verse comforting?

Universalism - Basically all paths lead to heaven. What is appealing about this view? What is the problem with this view? If there is no justice and punishment for evil and sin, what is the point of Christ's death and resurrection? Is a god that allows all to enter heaven a god to be worshipped?

- Read John 14:6 and Acts 4:12. What does the Bible say about universalism?
- The Gospel has three transactions:
 1. Adam and Eve sinned, thereby imputing sin into every human.
 2. Jesus lived a sinless, perfect, blameless life. Our sin is imputed to him on the cross.
 3. When we put our faith and trust in Jesus for our salvation, Christ's righteousness is imputed to us, making us righteous in the sight of God and the punishment for our sin is taken away.

Community Group Discussion Questions

Catholicism

- There are many similarities between Catholicism and Protestantism, but there are some key differences that came out of the reformation in 1517. The 5 Solas from that are:
 - Sola Gratia (Grace Alone) Ephesians 2:8-9
 - Sola Fide (Faith Alone), Galatians 3:11
 - Solus Christus (Christ Alone) 1 Timothy 2:5
 - Sola Scripture (Scripture Alone) 2 Timothy 3:16-17
 - Soli Deo Gloria (To the glory of God Alone) 1 Peter 4:11

Catholicism	Protestantism
Faith + Good Works -> Justification	Sola Fide - Faith Alone; Read Ephesians 2:3-9 and Galatians 3:11. Faith -> Justification + Good Works
The elevate Papal authority and Church tradition to the place of Scripture	Sola Scriptura - Scripture alone; Authority of Scripture

- If over half of proclaiming Christians believe they can earn their salvation, where do you, as an individual stand with Jesus?

Mormonism

- Mormons claim to be Christians and both Mormons and Christians share a lot of the same values. There are some pretty “essential” differences, which are not Biblical though:
 - Book of Mormon - Companion to the Bible
 - Reject the Trinity
 - God the Father has a physical body, and...
 - Through physical relations between the Father and Mary, Jesus was begotten (first existed) along with his brother, Lucifer.
 - The Bible tells us that Jesus was one person, two natures (fully God, fully human)
 - Jesus is co-eternal with God (John 1)

Judaism

- Christianity gets its roots from Judaism. Jesus was a Jew. Describe the differences between cultural, racial and religious Judaism.

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Community Group Discussion Questions

- Jews don't believe Jesus was the Messiah. Christians believe Jesus fulfilled the prophecies. Read Romans 1:16. What are the ways in which Jesus didn't fit the expectation of the Jewish belief?

Unreached People Groups

- There are two perspectives on this: Inclusive and Exclusive.
- Inclusive: We should remain agnostic on the fate of the unreached
- Exclusive: God has revealed himself to all.
 - Special Revelation (his Word)
 - General Revelation - Read Romans 1:20
- Why does this give you encouragement for missions?

RESPONSE:

How you answer this crucial question will impact you and change your life in the following:

- How you view God - Read Jeremiah 29:12
- How you view evangelism - Read Matthew 28:19-20. Why does evangelism take more patience, courage and thoughtfulness than a generation ago?
- How you view eternity - John 3:16

PRAY:

Lord, we thank you that your thoughts are higher than our thoughts and your ways are higher than ours. When we don't understand you, we still trust you. Thank you that all who call upon you as their Lord and Savior, you give us the right to be called your children.