

Foundation for Salvation: A Relationship with God

I. MAN'S GUILT (the problem):

A. Adam's Sin

-Gen ch 3

B. Our Sin

*-Rom 3:23 "for **all** have sinned and fall short of the glory of God..."*

-Rom 6:23a "For the wages of sin is death..."

- The penalty for sin is endless death and eternal separation from God.

Questions -

1. What is sin? How would you define it?

- the violation of God's moral law, to "miss the mark."

-essentially selfishness

2. Look at the article entitled "Why the Cross?" How well did you do at Tests # 1 and 2?

II. THE CROSS (God's solution):

A. Atonement

-1 Jn 4:10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

B. God's Love

-John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Questions -

1. What does "atonement" mean?

-Def. - The act by which God restores a relationship of harmony and unity between Himself and human beings. The word can be broken into three parts which express this great truth in simple but profound terms: "at-one-ment (from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

2. How could one man's death on a cross pay for the sins of the entire world?
 - Jesus is called the "Lamb of God"
 - As the "perfect," sinless substitute, He is the only one who could pay the debt we owed. (see Hebrews 7:24-27)
3. What is the basis for God's decision to come and die on the cross?
 - God's great love (unselfish choice) for us.
4. Can you think of any other solution to our dilemma?

III. MAN'S RESPONSE (What do we do?):

A. Repentance:

-Acts 3:19 "Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord"

B. Faith:

-Rom 10:9 That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

-Eph 2:8-9 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- not by works, so that no one can boast.

Questions -

1. What is True Repentance?
 - True repentance means turning completely from your selfishness, with the determination **to sin no more**.
 - True repentance means **giving up all rights to your life**; you must put yourself into God's loving hands for whatever He wants of your life.
 - True repentance also means the willingness as far as humanly possible to **make right all known wrong**. Whatever the Holy Spirit speaks to you about, whether it is forgiveness of those who have hurt you, confession of wrong to another, restoring or repaying someone, the Lord Jesus will give you the courage and words to make it right.
2. What does it mean to believe? Is this passive, or active?
 - This act of faith is neither an idea nor a feeling but **an intelligent and deliberate act of the will**.
3. What is the difference between "salvation by works" and "salvation by grace"?

-salvation by works speaks of earning eternal life by our "goodness" or some form of penance.

-Christianity rejects this idea - only Jesus could "earn" your salvation. This is the **gift of God** to those who believe - Eph 2:9 is very clear.

IV. GOD'S PROMISE (What can we expect?)

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

-John 3:3 ...Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."

Questions -

4. What is a born again Christian?
-John 1:12 - one who has **both believed and received** His forgiveness and a new life through the power of His Spirit.
5. What "new" things should we expect to see in a born again Christian?