Foundations

Session 3: Who is God?

What is a Christian? This is the main question we addressed during the last session. In today's world, there are many definitions for the word "Christian." What does the Bible say? How does a Christian define a Christian?

A Christian is a person who is a follower of Jesus Christ who believes that:

- Jesus is God the Son
- Jesus lived a sinless life
- Jesus died on the cross as payment for sin
- Jesus rose from the dead on the third day and ascended to heaven

There are many words and phrases used to describe the Christian experience – saved, born again, a believer, the redeemed, etc. The word "salvation" is a common word used to describe the Christian experience. This word typically means deliverance from sin; redemption. It means to be free from the penalty of eternal separation from God. Justification, sanctification and glorification can also help to explain this new experience as a Christian.

- Justification – freed from the penalty of sin
- Sanctification – freed from the power of sin
- Glorification – freed from the presence of sin

To become a Christian, a person must realize that he or she is a sinner. Because of sin, a person must believe that Jesus died to pay for his or her own sin. Each person must make the personal choice to accept God's free gift of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. Once this inward spiritual transformation occurs, there is an outward change in behavior. Additionally, there are some clear results of being a Christians such as the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and peace with God.

In order to have a firm view of salvation, we must understand the One who provided this great salvation. Who is God? This is a question that humanity has probably been asking since the fall. Although numbers have been declining, still many people in the United States believe in God. Like the word "Christian," the common view of God may be expressed in many different ways. In a world where people define God according to their own dictates, it is important to explain who God is from the Bible.

By the end of this session, you should be able to:

- Describe who God is from the Bible
- Explain how God has revealed Himself
- List attributes of God

1. What is one essential aspect you have discovered about God? How would you describe God?

2. What characteristics of God do you find in the following verses?

Genesis 1:1

Exodus 34:6

Psalm 119:137

John 4:24

3. What do the following verses say about the revelation of God to humanity?

Romans 1:20

Psalm 19:1

Romans 2:14

4. Based on the verse, what attribute of God is presented? What does this attribute mean to you?

Psalm 139:7-10

Malachi 3:6

Psalm 115:3

Psalm 34:8

Isaiah 6:3

5. Which attribute of God encourages or challenges you the most? Why?

6. Read Daniel 3. How did knowing God influence the actions of the 3 Jewish men?

7. Based on the class session, notes, and your personal study, what has encouraged or challenged you from this session?

Additional Resources

Father Style by Gayle Erwin