



BASIC CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE

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8 SESSIONS

**NEXT
LEVEL**  **ONLINE**
OZARK CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

NEXTLEVEL: Basic Christian Doctrine
Session 1: God with Michael DeFazio

SESSION 1: God

- Opening Thoughts on “Theology”/Doctrine
 - o What is theology/doctrine?
 - o Why do theology (as opposed to just reading the Bible)?
 - o How can we do theology well?
- Initial Thoughts on the Doctrine of God
 - o The doctrine of God is _____.
 - o The doctrine of God is _____.
- God’s “Triune” Nature –
 - o “One God in three persons” –
 - o Is this biblical?¹
 - o Why does the doctrine of the “Trinity” matter?
- Divine Attributes (or Perfections)
 - o How do we come to know what God is like?
 - o What are “attributes” of God?
 - o What should we do with attributes of God?

Discussion Questions:

1. When you hear the word “God,” what immediately comes to mind?
2. If someone who did not know God asked you to tell them the three most important things about God, what would you say?

¹ See 2 Corinthians 13:14 and Matthew 28:18-20

3. In what way have you come to know God better as you have grown up?
4. Think of someone you know personally. Does it help or hurt the relationship to believe true things *about* this person? How does this help us think about the value of knowing the truth *about* God?
5. How would you explain the Trinity to a child? (Kidding but not kidding!)
6. What attribute(s) of God will you intentionally think about for the rest of the week?

NEXTLEVEL: Basic Christian Doctrine
Session 2: Christ with Mark Scott

“Jesus Christ is the most *inclusive exclusivist* that has ever lived.” -Jeff Vines

1. He’s inclusive (Jn. 3:16; Ac. 2:39; 2 Pet. 3:9; 1 Jn. 2:2).
2. He’s exclusive (Jn. 14:6; Ac. 4:12; Matt. 7:13).

Person of Christ:

- How do we see Christ in the Old Testament?
 1. Maybe in the name of God—Elohim—plural.
 2. Maybe as God’s special messenger (Gen. 18; Dan. 3).
 3. Maybe as the messenger of Wisdom (Prov. 8).
 4. Maybe in various prophetic titles and texts:
 - Seed (Gen. 3)
 - Suffering Servant (Isa. 53)
 - Desire of nations (Hag. 2)
 - Son of man (Daniel and Ezekiel).
 5. Maybe in typology:
 - People - Moses or David
 - Places - tabernacle
 - Things - sacrifices.
- Dr. Shane Wood gives four myths to dispel about the Messiah:
 1. Many OT texts point to a Messiah—yes and no.
 2. People were earnestly looking for a Messiah (Cf. Gal. 4:4).
 3. That people believed that the Messiah was some kind of God incarnate.
 4. There was a clear consensus on the picture and person of the Messiah.
- When we add Judaism (and antiquity scholars to the mix) we find these options for what the Messiah would be:

1. Political revolutionary	6. Ideal Pharisee
2. Magician	7. Essene
3. Exorcist	8. Sage
4. Charismatic	9. Cynic
5. Rabbi	10. Eschatological Prophet

I suppose there is no *unified* portrait, rather a *plurality* of pictures. No one picture exhausts Jesus the Messiah. At the end of the day, I think his person boils down to the famous three: Prophet, Priest, King.

Work of Christ:

- Jesus had many works (miracles, sermons, encounters, etc.) but we primarily mean the work of Christ on the cross. In other words, *atonement*.
- A few cautions about atonement:

1. The gospels don't say much about the atonement (Mk. 10:45).
 2. The epistles were efforts to explain the life of Christ to the church.
 3. The miracles and ministry were previews of the atonement.
 4. The New Testament writers didn't feel obligated to give us a systematic outline of the salvific experience.
 5. There may be a progression to salvation, but concepts greatly overlap too.
 6. You can't have everything in a word or concept.
 7. The "idolatry" of salvation—if you mean only the forgiveness of sins.
- Vocabulary that drives atonement:
 1. Justification (court)
 2. Propitiation (temple)
 3. Redemption (market)
 4. Reconciliation (marriage)
 5. Sanctification (temple)
 6. Regeneration (cosmos)
 7. Adoption, Election, Calling (familial)
 8. Deification (theosis)
 - Major Atonement Theories:
 1. Penal Substitution—Christ is substituted for our judgment.
 2. Christus Victor—Christ won the victory over the devil on the cross.
 3. Moral exemplar—Christ showed us how to live.
 4. Satisfying God's honor—Christ didn't die for sin but for restoring God's honor—Anselm.
 5. Recapitulation—Christ recapitulated Adam's development and gave an example of perfect human righteousness.

So What Can We Say?

- Atonement is rooted in the story of Christ.
- Celebrated in the Lord's Supper.
- Evident in conversion and baptism.
- Is bigger than going to heaven or "having a relationship with God."
- Is experiencing new creation, being restored to co-rule with God, and becoming partakers in the divine nature.

Church history often shows evidence of how we tend to make Jesus in our own image instead of the other way around. Just make sure when speaking of the person and work of Christ, you have a biblical Jesus.

Discussion Questions:

1. In what ways is Jesus inclusive and in what ways is Jesus exclusive?
2. What is meant by the "person of Christ" and the "work of Christ?"
3. How and why should we be more sympathetic toward the first-century A.D. listeners as to "missing Jesus?"
4. What are some practical ways that Jesus might be perceived from the Old Testament?

5. What is meant by there being no “unified portrait of Christ” in the Old Testament but a “plurality of pictures” of Christ in the Old Testament?
6. Is there an atonement model that appeals to you most? State why—i.e., what telling power does it have?
7. How do we make Jesus in our image today?

NEXTLEVEL: Basic Christian Doctrine
Session 3: Bible with Mike Ackerman

1. God has revealed himself through Creation, the prophets, and ultimately through Jesus.
 - 2 Timothy 3:16 - God _____
 - Genesis 1: 1 - God _____
 - Genesis 1:3 - God _____
2. The final form of the Bible is what God wanted us to have to capture this revelation of himself.
 - Hebrews 1:1-3 - God spoke through the _____ but now he has spoken through _____.
 - John 1: 14 - Jesus is _____.
3. Since the Bible is inspired it is reliable for us to know, love, and live for God.
 - 2 Timothy 3:16
 - Expect _____.
 - Expect _____.
 - Expect _____.

Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

- What does it mean to say the Bible is “inspired”?
- How did God work through human authors and compilers to give us the Bible?
- If the Bible is the Word of God, what does that mean for your beliefs?
- If the Bible is the Word of God, what does that mean for what you care about?
- If the Bible is the Word of God, what does that mean for how you live?
- What are some ways you could increase and enhance your engagement with the Bible?
- Will you commit yourself to engaging with the Bible more?

NEXTLEVEL: Basic Christian Doctrine
Session 4: Church with Doug Welch

Is the church essentially an INSTITUTION or RELATIONSHIPS?

COVENANT – an agreement that changes your life

Difference between a covenant and a contract?

Three Aspects of a Covenant (what it transforms):

1. IDENTITY (“in Christ” Rom 8:1; 2 Cor 5:17; Gal 3:28)
2. COMMUNITY (“one another” John 13:34-35; Gal 6:2; Eph 5:21)
3. MISSION (“make disciples” Matt 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; John 20:21)

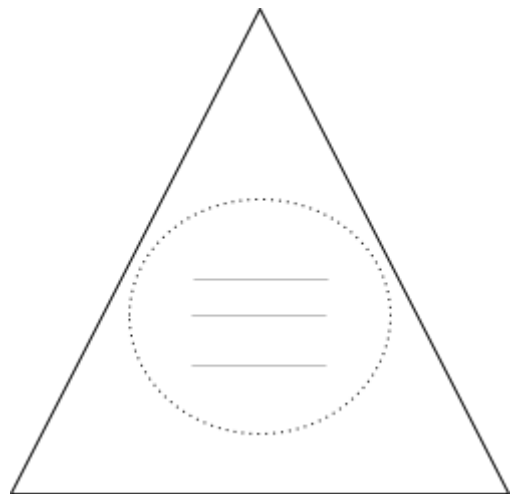
Relationships and Institutions are tangible expressions of the NEW COVENANT REALITY that we have with God.

Relationships experienced through (Acts 2:42)

1. Speaking the WORD of God to one another
2. PRAYER with one another
3. SUBMISSION together to the lordship of Jesus (worship, service)

Role of the institution: to nurture the relationships and present the new reality to the world around us

1. LEADERS
2. ENVIRONMENTS
3. PRACTICES



NEXTLEVEL: Basic Christian Doctrine
Session 5: End Times with Shane J. Wood, Ph.D.

- I. Studying the “End Times”
 - a. Typical Questions: When will the world end? When will Jesus come back? Are we living in the end times? What will heaven look like?
 - b. Key Question: Do our questions match the questions of the New Testament?
- II. Homesickness
 - a. Genesis 3
 - b. Danger of homesickness: We can be so focused on a different time and a different place that we fail to live in the here and now.
- III. A Mental Shift to Study “End Times”
 - a. The end times are not so much about events that happened at the end of time. They are about transforming our actions and how we live in the present.
- IV. Three Scripture Texts
 - a. **Matthew 24:36-25:46** - Four parables all with this command, “You won’t know...always be ready!”:
 - 1. Wicked Servant: 24:48-51
 - 2. 10 Virgins: 25:1-13
 - 3. Talents: 25:14-30
 - 4. Sheep and Goats = 25:31-46
 - b. **Revelation 21-22** - Beauty of Heaven
 - c. **2 Peter 3:1-11** - The question the Bible asks about the End Times.
- V. The Cure to Homesickness - Changing our Questions:
 - i. Looking to the Lord’s prayer - **Matthew 6:9-13**
 - ii. The Key question for End Times is not: When will the world end? When will Jesus come back? Are we living in the end times? What will heaven look like?
 - iii. No, the key question is: “Since everything will end in this way, what kind of people ought you to be?”

NEXTLEVEL: Basic Christian Doctrine
Session 6: Holy Spirit with Mike Ackerman

1. God Exists as Trinity – Father, Son, and Spirit
 - 1 Timothy 2:5 - There is _____ God.
 - Deuteronomy 6:4 - The Lord is _____.
 - John 16:13
2. The Holy Spirit Is Connected in Scripture with Life: Creation and Rebirth
 - Genesis 2:7 - The Holy Spirit gives _____.
 - Titus 3:5 - The Holy Spirit gives _____ in Christ.
 - Ephesians 1:13-14 - He gives me _____.
3. The Holy Spirit Empowers God's People for Holiness and Ministry
 - The Holy Spirit gives power.
 - Luke 24:49 - The Holy Spirit _____ you with power.
 - Acts 2 - The Holy Spirit gives the believers _____.
 - 2 Timothy 1:7
 - Ephesians 3:16
 - The Holy Spirit gives the power to transform your life.
 - Galatians 5:22-25 - If a person has the Holy Spirit, then their life should bear the _____ of the Holy Spirit.
 - Romans 8:26 - We have a connection with _____ through the Holy Spirit.
 - The Holy Spirit gives power to serve others.
 - 2 Timothy 1:14
 - 1 Corinthians 12:7

Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

- What comes to your mind when you think about the Holy Spirit?
- Do you tend to imagine the Spirit more so as a person or as an impersonal force?
- What are some of the striking ideas presented in the Bible about the Spirit that stand out to you?
- What are some ways the Holy Spirit has guided you in life so far?

- What would it look like for you to allow the Holy Spirit to empower you more?
- What do you think the Holy Spirit might be saying to you right now?

NEXTLEVEL: Basic Christian Doctrine
Session 7: Salvation with Michael DeFazio

SESSION 7: Salvation

- Opening Thoughts
 - o Matthew 1; Acts 2; Romans 10:9; Ephesians 1:3-14
 - o Jesus SAVES. But *what does this mean?*
- Salvation in Christ – Six Observations
 1. Christianity is a religion of sin and salvation.
 2. To talk about salvation is to talk about more than just salvation.
 - *From salvation to sin...*
 - *From sin to creation...*
 3. We were created *for* something *from* which we have fallen.
 - *Created for* _____ –
 - *Alienated due to* _____ –
 4. Salvation is a _____ *from* sin *to* shalom.
 5. We can (and should) think further on the *what* and the *how* of salvation.
 - *What is it?*
 - *How is it made possible?*
 6. Our salvation is both finished and not yet complete.

Discussion Questions:

1. If one of your friends said, “I don’t want to be saved,” how would you respond?
2. Before this video, how would you have defined and described “salvation”?
3. What are some Bible passages that come to mind when you think about salvation in Christ? What do these passages say? What do they leave out?

4. What is something you heard in this video that you already know/believe but you haven't thought about in a while? What is something you heard in the video that you had not learned or thought about before?
5. Who do you know that needs to hear about salvation in Christ? How will you tell them?

NEXTLEVEL: Basic Christian Doctrine
Session 8: Creation and Humanity with Dr. Chad Ragsdale

Introductory Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

1. Psalm 8 - What does this psalm tell us about creation and our place in it? Have you ever had one of these moments where creation has driven you to a sense of awe and wonder?
2. If you had to summarize some common beliefs in the world concerning nature and humanity, what would you say?

What do Christians affirm about creation?

1. _____
 - What is good about creation?
 - What are some of the ways that we might neglect to recognize the goodness of creation?
2. _____
 - Romans 8:19-20 - What does this passage tell us about the present nature of creation?
3. _____
 - Revelation 21:1-5 - What does this passage tell us about the hope of creation?

What do Christians affirm about humanity?

1. _____
 - Genesis 1:26-28 - What does it mean that humans are created in the imago dei (the image of God)?
 - Humans represent God in three ways. What are those three ways?

2. _____

- Romans 3:23

3. _____

Follow-up Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

1. Why does it matter what a Christian believes about creation and humanity? What are the implications of these beliefs?

2. How should a Christian act towards creation and humanity? How does the message of Jesus change our behavior?

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