

Session 12

Conversion / Justification / Adoption

1. Discipleship Scenario

2. Discussion Questions

a. "*Conversion (Faith and Repentance)*" (Chap. 21 of Bible Doctrine)

Review Questions

- Describe the *two components* of conversion.
- What three factors are necessary for there to be true, saving faith?
- Define repentance. How does it differ from worldly grief or remorse (cf. 2 Cor. 7:9-10)
- Can a person have true saving faith without repentance? Explain.
- Do faith and repentance occur only at the beginning of the Christian life? Why or why not?

Questions for Personal Application

- If your knowledge of God has increased as you have read this book, has your faith increased with that knowledge? Why or why not? If not, how can you encourage your faith to grow more than it has?

- In terms of human relationships, do you trust a person more when you do not know the person very well or after you have come to know him or her quite well? What does that tell you about how your faith in God might increase? What things might you do during the day to come to know God better and come to know Jesus and the Holy Spirit better?
- Have you ever truly repented of sin, or do you think you have been taught a watered-down gospel that did not include repentance? Do you think it is possible for someone genuinely in Christ for forgiveness of sins without also sincerely repenting of sins?
- Have faith and repentance remained a continued part of your Christian life, or have those attitudes of heart grown somewhat weak in your life? What has been the result in your Christian life?

b. "*Justification and Adoption*" (Chap. 22 of Bible Doctrine)

Review Questions

- Define the word *justify* as used in the NT in verses such as Rom. 3:20, 26, 28; 4:5; and 8:33.
- Does God's act of justification actually change our internal nature or character at all? Why or why not?

- God's declaration of justification involves what two factors?
- How can God declare us righteous when we are in fact guilty sinners? Is this righteousness based upon our own actions or actual inner nature? If not, then what is it based on?
- Briefly explain the difference between the Protestant view of justification and the Roman Catholic understanding.
- What is the relationship between faith and justification? Does faith earn us salvation? Explain.
- Define the biblical doctrine of adoption. How is this privilege different from the blessing of justification?

Questions for Personal Application

- Are you confident that God has declared you "not guilty" forever in His sight? Do you know when that happened in your life? Did you do anything to deserve justification? If you are not sure that God has justified you fully and for all time, what would persuade you that God has certainly justified you?

- If you think of yourself standing before God on the day of judgment, would you think that it is enough to simply have your sins forgiven, or would you feel a need to have the righteousness of Christ reckoned to your account?
- Do you think the difference between the Roman Catholic and Protestant understanding of justification is an important one? Describe how you would feel about your relationship to God if you held the Roman Catholic view of justification.
- Have you ever wondered if God is still continuing to punish you from time to time for sins you have done in the past, even long ago? How does the doctrine of justification help you deal with those feelings?
- How many benefits can you think of that come to you because you are a member of God's family? Had you previously thought of these as automatically yours because you had been born again? Now how do you feel about the fact that God has adopted you into His family compared with the way you felt before reading this chapter?

3. Scripture Memory Verse

John 3:16 ¹⁶ "For God so loved the world,¹ that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Romans 3:27-28 ²⁷ Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

4. Exercise

Invite group members to read Scriptures concerning adoption (from the book) and then take time to thank God for the incredible privilege of being adopted as His children.

5. Assignment for Next Time

Read chapter 23 in Bible Doctrine, the booklet, *Healthy Christian Growth*, by Sinclair Ferguson and "To Take the Soul to Task", by David Powlison.

Next meeting is _____.