

## Bitesize Theology

*"You need to **know** what to believe before you can understand what to **do**."*

- **God** - *The Lord* -Yahweh - "I AM" -the self-existent one who wants to be with me for my good forever. *Your God* "Elohim"-the strong creator; the one true God - majestic and mighty; the creator of everything; the father of all mankind. He is holy (Ps. 99:9), good (Ps. 145:9,15-16), and loving (Rom. 5:6-8). God is omniscient [all knowing], omnipresent [all present], omnipotent [all powerful], and omnificent [all creative] (Job 23:13). He is sovereign and so has absolute rule and authority of God over His creation (1 Chronicles 29:11-12).
- **Jesus** - He is the son of God (Heb. 1:3) and the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation (Col. 1:15-16). He was born of a virgin (Matt. 1:20) and is both fully man (Heb. 2:14-17) and fully God (Col. 2:9).
- **The Holy Spirit** - Just as Jesus is God so also the Holy Spirit is God. The ministries of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit are all essential for our salvation. The Father planned it, the Son purchased it and the Holy Spirit applies it to us (John 3:5-8), John 16:8). The Father draws us to Christ (John 6:44), and then the Holy Spirit gives us gifts and fruit (1 Cor. 12:4-6; Gal. 5:22-23).
- **The Trinity** - A word used to describe the wonderful mystery that the one true God exists in three persons - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Trinity is not a matter for debate or even attempted explanation, but for a reverent acceptance (1 Peter 1:2).
- **Sin** - To fall short of the standard God has set; to "miss the mark". *Transgress* means to trespass outside the boundaries God has set (Rom. 3:23). *Iniquity* means crookedness, not straight, moral distortion, and refers to our nature (Ps. 32:1-2).
- **Original sin** - A term used to denote the effect of Adam's sin upon the moral life of his descendants (Rom. 5:12,19; Eph. 2:1-3).
- **Depravity** - The human condition which is marked by corruption or evil; perverted; turned away from what is right or good; obstinate in opposing what is right, reasonable, or accepted (Jer. 17:9-10; Isa. 64:6; James 2:10-11).
- **Atonement** - God's planned answer to human sin whereby He blamed [imputed] our sin on His perfect Son, Jesus, and then punished Him for it (1 Cor. 11:23-26).
- **Propitiation** - On the cross Jesus, bearing our sin and guilt, faced the wrath of God instead of us and paid fully on our behalf the debt we owed to the broken law of God. The wrath of God fell upon Jesus, our substitute, instead of upon us (1 Peter 3:19).
- **Grace** - This God showing goodness, mercy, and unmerited favor to a people who deserve only judgment and condemnation (Eph. 2:8-9).
- **Regeneration** - In this God gives new life, spiritual life, to those who are dead in sin (Titus 3:5).

- **Repentance** - The sinner, conscious of his guilt and aware of God's mercy in Christ, turns from his sin to God (Acts 3:19; Acts 26:20).
- **Faith** - This is trust in Christ as he is offered to us in the gospel. It is the channel by which salvation comes to us and is, itself, given us by God (Eph. 2:8; Heb. 11:1-6).
- **Reconciliation** - Means the ending of enmity and the making of peace and friendship between persons previously opposed. God and men were at enmity with each other by reason of men's sins; but God has acted in Christ to reconcile sinners to Himself though the cross (2 Cor. 5:18-21).
- **Redemption** - Means to set someone free from captivity or slavery by the payment of a ransom price. We are redeemed from the slavery of sin by the blood of Jesus (Rom. 6:20-22).
- **Justification** - Only God can justify; we cannot justify ourselves. He does so when he clothes the guilty sinner in the righteousness of Christ and then declares that person to be acceptable to him because of Jesus (Rom. 3:22-25)
- **Adoption** - A term that Paul borrowed from the first-century Roman legal system. In this system of law the adopted person was given the right to the **name** and **property** of the person who had adopted him. From a position of not belonging and having no rights **he became a son with a father**. His relationship and standing was changed and this change was brought about at the instigation of the adopting father (Eph. 1:4-5; Rom. 8:15-17).
- **Sanctification** - This is a process by which the Christian is purified in heart and mind; to be made holy; set apart for God's use (1 Cor. 6:11).
- **Election** - Election simply means that God saves specific individuals (Eph. 1:4).
- **Eternal security** - Not only are we saved by the grace of God but also we cannot lose that salvation. So we are eternally secure (John 10:25-30; 1 Cor. 1:4-9).
- **Pride** - An exalted view of oneself. Pride is a focus on oneself that is expressed in thoughts, attitudes, words and actions (Ps. 101:5; Ps. 18:27).
- **Humility** - Meekness; power under control; the willingness to be known for who we are (Prov. 3:34, James 4:6).

***"because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy." Heb 10:14 NIV***