

Discipleship Of The Heart Phase III



***But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart
and a good conscience and a sincere faith.***

Blue Ridge Bible Church: Discipleship of the Heart III

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Overview Of Ministry

You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also. (2 Timothy 2:1-2)

Discipleship Goals:

To equip and train people to live in the grace of Jesus Christ. *“Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus”*

To use the Biblical strategy of life-on-life discipleship (no more than three) to accomplish the first goal. *“You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things which you have heard from me...”*

To have these people become equippers and train others who will then do the same thing, so that the Kingdom of God will grow through the multiplication of disciples. *“...these entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.”*

What Makes Discipleship Of The Heart Unique:

Most discipleship books, curricula and programs can be boiled down in the following sentence. *If you do _____ then you are a growing disciple of Jesus.*

The blank may be filled in with Bible study, evangelism, prayer, memory, church, ministry....or some other basic discipline. The idea communicated in these discipleship programs is that discipleship is something that you *do*. The problem is that without meaning to, we can become modern day Pharisees or self-deceived hypocrites...like Jesus talked about when He said, *“This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me”* When you study the religious people in the Bible, you will discover that they were highly motivated, deeply moral, sincerely seeking to live out their faith. Yet, Jesus reserved His most scathing rebukes for them. In spite of this, most modern day discipling programs still appeal to doing the right stuff, the formulas, or the disciplines and believing that faithful adherence to these activities will make you a growing disciple.

We believe that this presupposition is incorrect. You *are* a disciple. And as a disciple, it is up to your Master, Jesus Christ, to disciple you. You belong to Him. We believe that true discipleship occurs as people allow the Holy Spirit to work in their heart and lives. As we walk in faith and in total trust to the transforming power of God, then He will mold us into the image of His Son. For the journey outlined here, the focus will be your heart.

The goal of **Discipleship of the Heart III** is to build on the foundations of **Discipleship of the Heart I** and **Discipleship of the Heart II**. It is designed to help emerging leaders understand the basic tenets of our faith.

Our approach here is to spend time examining the basic doctrinal statement of Blue Ridge Bible Church, to understand where scripture teaches what we believe, and to have an emerging leader

evaluate his or her own views of basic Biblical doctrine and write a short summary of what they believe about what the Bible teaches. At the end of the time together, people who walk this road should be encouraged to teach others of the faith. Such teaching can happen in many different situations: in the family first, for sure, but also in one-on-one or small groups or in more traditional church teaching environments.

Our very strong desire is that we raise another generation of leaders at Blue Ridge who are grounded in the faith and will pass that on to future generations.

Design of Discipleship of the Heart, Part III

This portion of Discipleship of the Heart is designed to take advantage of time already used in the day: either on a long commute or while cleaning, gardening or working around the home. Each session has a short study period of preparation followed by a 45-minute mp3 file to listen to on the doctrine of that session. For these mp3s, we have chosen to use a series on Systematic Theology from Denton Bible Church. Our views and theirs are very closely aligned and we have noted in each session where the presentation from Denton might not align exactly with ours or where we might not use the same thoughts to express them.

Each session also has a “For Further Study” section containing suggested chapters from two different Systematic Theology books that come from different points of view. Charles Ryrie’s Basic Theology is written from the point of view of someone who leans more toward a dispensational and, perhaps “free will” theology. Wayne Grudem’s Systematic Theology has a more reformed point of view. For a pure covenant theology, reformed view of scripture, we recommend Louis Berkhof’s Systematic Theology. BRBC’s doctrinal statement lies somewhat between the views of Ryrie and Grudem.

After the scripture and mp3, those participating have an opportunity to record, in short bullets, their reactions to the doctrine and are invited to summarize their own view of the doctrine for future reference and teaching. These reactions should be the focus of one-on-one time they spend with their mentors.

Expectations Of Participants

- To set aside one hour a month for eleven months for life-on-life meeting with the mentor.
- To be adequately prepared, both spiritually and intellectually, for the meeting time.
- To have spent time meditating in God’s word and assessing your view of doctrine before the meeting.
- To implement specific changes based on what God shows you and be willing to talk though how those changes are working.
- To pray daily for the person discipling you.
- To be available for personal ministry as opportunities present themselves.
- To teach the faith in whatever environment God calls you to and to multiply and continue the discipleship process.

Discipleship Of The Heart is the basic discipleship material of Blue Ridge Bible Church. It is our goal that key emerging leaders—both men and women—have an opportunity to work life-on-life with another church leader. It is our method for raising the next generation of church leaders.

Session 1—The Doctrine of the Bible

Introduction

God speaks. This is the most profound fact, and the foundation of our faith: the God who created, also communicated to His creation. He revealed Himself and can be known. A sound view of scripture—what it is, how it came to be, how God has preserved it through the ages, and its authority in our lives—is fundamental to all other doctrine. Every church that ends up in apostasy and error begins, as a first step, by rejecting the authority and inerrancy of scripture. May we never take this step...

Prepare

BRBC Doctrinal Statement on The Bible: We believe the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, to be the verbally inspired Word of God, without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will, and the final authority for life and faith for all men. Thus we believe that the Bible is the inerrant, infallible, and inspired Word of God.

Read:

- John 16:13-14
- I Corinthians 2:9-12
- II Timothy 3:16
- II Peter 1:20-21
- I John 2:27; 4:6

Listen

Listen to “Systematic Theology: The Doctrine of Scripture”

<http://www.dbcmedia.org/sermons/systematic-theology-the-doctrine-of-scripture/>

The Uniqueness of The Bible:

- A. Its unity and diversity
- B. Its falsifiability
- C. Its treatment of history
- D. Prophecy
- E. Salvation as theocentric
- F. Our Triune God
- G. Israel
- H. Morality and ethics
- I. Effect on history
- J. Breadth of its authority

Revelation: The transfer of God’s word from the mind of God to the mind of the author (I Corinthians 2:9-12; II Timothy 3:16)

Inspiration: The transfer of God's word from the mind of the author to the written document. Preserving as inerrant in the words of the original. (II Peter 1:20-21). Inspiration is:

- A. Verbal
- B. Plenary

Illumination: Transfer of God's word from the inspired document to the mind of the reader or listener. (I John 2:27; 4:6)

Canonicity: The ability of God's people to discern God's writings

- A. Tests of Canonicity:
 - 1. Author
 - 2. Claims
 - 3. Exaltation of Christ
 - 4. Unity of doctrine
 - 5. The mind and heart of the church
- B. The Closed Canon
 - 1. According to Christ (John 16:13-14)
 - 2. According to theology
 - 3. According to history
 - 4. According to morality

Interpretation: Interpret scripture according to:

- A. Its grammar
- B. The context
- C. Its overall theology
- D. The original languages
- E. Dispensations

React

1. What do you disagree with or find troubling about BRBC's doctrinal statement?

2. What was the most intriguing or interesting point made in the mp3?

3. What do you disagree with or find troubling about the doctrine as presented in the mp3?

4. What questions do you have that warrant further study?

5. Based on the church's doctrine of the Bible, and what the Bible says about itself, what do you need to change, work on, improve or sharpen in your own life?

6. Write a short (no more than a single page) statement of your own view on the doctrine of scripture.

For Further Study

On revelation:

Ryrie, Chapter 9, pages 63-66

Grudem: Chapter 2, pages 47-53

On inspiration:

Ryrie, Chapter 10, pages 67-72

On inerrancy:

Ryrie, Chapter 12, pages 77-85

Grudem: Chapter 5, pages 90-101

On the Canon

Ryrie: Chapter 15, pages 105-109

Grudem: Chapter 3, pages 54-70

Session 2—The Doctrine of God

Introduction

In his excellent book, *The Knowledge of the Holy*, A.W. Tozer says this: “I believe there is scarcely an error in doctrine or a failure in applying Christian ethics that cannot be traced finally to imperfect and ignoble thoughts about God.” Knowing God, not just *about* God is the divine pursuit of every believer, and indeed the unconscious and unknowing pursuit of many who have rejected God. Knowing Him, His person, His character, His plan, His will, is crucial to all doctrine and all scriptural interpretation. At BRBC, we want to develop leaders at every level, men and women, who are on a lifelong pursuit to know God.

Prepare

BRBC Doctrinal Statement on God: We believe in one God, Creator of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existing in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God is Spirit, eternal, omnipresent, omnipotent, omniscient, immutable, sovereign, holy, just, righteous, faithful, merciful, loving, good, and actively at work in the world and lives of men today.

Read:

- Genesis 1:1
- Genesis 18:25
- Numbers 23:9
- Deuteronomy 6:4
- Psalm 19
- Psalm 139:7-10
- Psalm 139:4
- Isaiah 6:3
- Jeremiah 32:17
- Malachi 3:6
- Matthew 28:19
- Matthew 29:35
- John 4:24
- John 10:30
- John 17:3
- Acts 2:23
- Acts 14:17
- Acts 17:27-29
- Romans 1:18-21
- Romans 2:1-3
- Romans 3:4
- Romans 8:29
- Romans 11:33
- II Corinthians 13:14
- James 1:17
- I Peter 1:20

Listen

Listen to “Systematic Theology: The Doctrine of God: Theology Proper”

<http://www.dbcmedia.org/sermons/systematic-theology-the-doctrine-of-god-theology-proper/>

God’s Existence:

Cosmological Argument (Romans 1:18-21, Psalm 19)

Teleological Argument (Acts 14:17)

Anthropological Argument (Acts 17:27-29)

Moral Argument (Romans 2:1-3)

God's Nature:

- A. One (Deuteronomy 6:4, John 17:3)
- B. Triune (Matthew 28:19, II Corinthians 13:14)
- C. Spirit (John 4:24)
 - 1. Personal
 - 2. Unconfined by matter or space
- D. Infinite or omnipresent (Psalm 139:7-10)
 - 1. Unconfined by time, thus eternal
 - 2. Unconfined by space, thus omnipresent
- E. Knowledgeable
 - 1. Of all knowledge: omniscient (Psalm 139:4)
 - 2. Of all future events: foreknowledge (Romans 8:29, I Peter 1:20, Acts 2:23)
 - 3. Of all His means of accomplishment: wisdom (Romans 11:33)
- F. Immutable (Malachi 3:6, Numbers 23:9, James 1:17)
 - 1. Note: Does not change in His person or His word, but may change in His actions. He is immutable, not immobile
- G. Good
 - 1. Love: To delight in, desire, acquire and commune with His subjects
 - 2. Benevolence: To create and act unto the creature's happiness
 - 3. Mercy: Kindness, empathy and patience toward the creature's fallenness
 - 4. Grace: To act for the creature's good only because of His own pleasure
- H. Holiness: Freedom from evil, thus veneration (Isaiah 6:3)
- I. Justice or righteousness: His holiness in dealing with His creatures (Genesis 18:25)
- J. Power: His ability to act according to His own perfections and pleasures (Jeremiah 32:17)
- K. Freedom or will: His pleasure and righteousness in acting or not acting. His will is:
 - 1. Decretive or Sovereign
 - 2. Perceptive (His rule of man)
 - 3. Providential (His permission or oversight of any event)
- L. True: From the Greek no-concealment (Matthew 29:35)
 - 1. He never lies: limitation by character
 - 2. He never errs: Limitation by knowledge
 - 3. He never disappoints: Limitation by power (Romans 3:4)

God's Position: Sovereign

God's Plan: God's eternal plan whereby through His own counsel and for His own glory He has foreordained whatever comes to pass.

React

1. What do you disagree with or find troubling about BRBC's doctrinal statement?
2. What was the most interesting point made in the mp3?
3. What part of the doctrine as presented in the mp3 do you agree with or find troubling?
4. What questions do you have that warrant further study?
5. Based on the church's doctrine of the God, what do you need to change, work on, improve or sharpen in your own life?
6. Write a short (no more than a single page) statement of your own view on the doctrine of God or how you view God as sovereign.

For Further Study

On God's Revelation of Himself:

Ryrie, Chapter 5, pages 28-34

Grudem: Chapter 9, pages 144-145

On God's Attributes:

Ryrie, Chapter 6, pages 35-44

Grudem: Chapters 11-13, pages 156-221

On The Trinity:

Grudem: Chapter 14, pages 226-258

Session 3—The Doctrine of Christ

Introduction

At the center of all of history, at the center of the story of Scripture, at the center of the majestic plan to redeem His creation, is the second person of the Godhead: the God-man Jesus Christ. The writer of Hebrews acknowledged this exalted truth: "...but in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed the heir of all things, through whom also He created the universe by the word of His power. After making purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high..." Understanding who Jesus Christ is, and being in relationship of love and obedience to God through Him is the foundation of our faith.

Prepare

BRBC Doctrinal Statement on Christ: We believe that Jesus Christ is God the Son, eternally existing, who lived on earth as a real individual in history. He is true God and true man. He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin. He was tempted in every way, but yet was without sin. He died on the cross for the sins of all mankind. He rose bodily from the grave on the third day, ascended into heaven, where at the right hand of God the Father, He is now our High Priest, and Advocate. He is the One Mediator between God and man and the head of the church universal and this local body.

Read:

- Isaiah 9:6
- John 1:1-18
- John 5:18
- John 8:58
- Romans 1:4
- I Corinthians 15:1-5
- Philippians 2:5-7
- Colossians 1:16
- I Timothy 2:5
- Hebrews 1:1-9
- Hebrews 5:8
- I John 5:20

Listen

Listen to "Systematic Theology: Christology: The Doctrine of the Lord Jesus Christ"
<http://www.dbcmedia.org/sermons/systematic-theology-christology-the-doctrine-of-the-lord-jesus-christ/>

His Deity (as proven by)

- A. His eternity (John 1:1, Isaiah 9:6, Hebrews 1:1-9, John 8:58)
- B. His part in creation (Colossians 1:16, John 1:3)
- C. His titles: Lord, God, Jehovah, Father of Eternity, I AM
- D. His attributes

His Humanity: "He was made like His brethren in all things, 'but from sin apart.'"

His Incarnation: “Perfect humanity and undiminished deity united in one person without separation or confusion forever.”

- A. As a theanthropic person, He:
 - 1. Reveals God
 - 2. Reveals man
 - 3. Fulfills the Davidic Covenant
 - 4. Serves as mediator unto man
 - 5. Defeats Satan
 - 6. Reconciles all creation
 - 7. Serves as the last Adam
- B. His incarnation example (Philippians 2:5-7)

His Virgin Birth: To demonstrate His incarnation and His freedom from Adam’s fall

His Offices:

- A. Prophet
- B. Priest
- C. King

His Ministry:

- A. Words, works, rejection (Israel)
- B. Training of the Twelve, Death, Session in Heaven (the Church)
- C. Return (Israel)

His Death: A substitutionary death to propitiate God, redeem sin and reconcile man

His Resurrection: It demonstrated His Sonship (Romans 1:4)

His Ascension: The demonstration of His acceptance and thus those in Him.

His Session in Heaven:

- A. He gathers His children and directs them
- B. He serves as advocate and intercessor, and as such secures them

His Return:

- A. Rapture—to complete our salvation and ready the world for judgment
- B. Wrath (the Tribulation)—to judge a wicked world and purify Israel
- C. Return—to deliver Israel

His Rule or Kingdom:

- A. To fulfill the Edenic Covenant
- B. To fulfill the Davidic Covenant

His Judgment: To satisfy divine justice and to subjugate the last enemy: death.

Christ Through Eternity

React

1. What questions have you about what is written in BRBC's doctrinal statement?
2. Were there parts of the mp3 that peaked your interest and is so what were they?
3. Are there parts of the doctrine as presented in the mp3 that you take issue with?
4. What now would you find important for you to further study?
5. How best can you change or improve in your own life based on the church's doctrine of the Christ?
6. Take a few moments to jot down your views of doctrine just covered. (no more than a single page)

For Further Study

On Christ's Deity:

Ryrie, Chapter 40, pages 237-240; Chapter 42, pages 247-249

Grudem: Chapter 29, pages 543-554

On Christ's Incarnation:

Ryrie, Chapter 41, pages 241-246

Grudem: Chapter 29, pages 554-563

On Christ's Virgin Birth:

Grudem: Chapter 26, pages 529-532

On Christ's Humanity:

Ryrie, Chapter 42, pages 249-251

Grudem: Chapter 26, pages 532-543

On Christ's Offices:

Ryrie, Chapter 43, pages 254-259

Grudem: Chapter 29, pages 624-630

On Christ's Death, Resurrection and Ascension:

Ryrie, Chapter 46, pages 267-270

Grudem: Chapter 27, pages 569-580; Chapter 28, pages 608-620

On Christ's Post-Ascension Ministry

Ryrie, Chapter 47, pages 271-276

Session 4—The Doctrine of The Holy Spirit, Part 1

Introduction

God dwells in us. We are the temple—the dwelling place—of God in this world. This is an amazing truth which, because we so poorly understand it and its implications, constrains the real power we have to do God’s work in our world. Among Jesus’ very last words to us on earth were these from Acts 1: “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses...” Because of recent theological differences within the church about the Holy Spirit and His work and role, we can become fearful about appropriating His power in our lives. We need to understand the Holy Spirit Biblically and live in and do God’s work through His power.

Prepare

BRBC Doctrinal Statement on The Holy Spirit: The Holy Spirit is God, a person of the Trinity fully possessing all the attributes of God. His ministry is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ, and during this age to convict men, regenerate the believing sinner, indwell, guide, instruct, and empower the believer for godly living for service. Every believer is baptized with, sealed by, filled with, and given gifts by the Holy Spirit at salvation, although we may quench the Holy Spirit by disobedience subsequent to salvation. The Holy Spirit continues to fill us in relation to our obedience to God, empowers us towards wise living, gives us the ability to understand God’s Word, serves as a constant reminder that we are the children of God, prays for us in our weakness, and gives us guidance to live in holiness. We believe that speaking in tongues is not now nor ever was the common or necessary sign of the baptism or of the filling of the Holy Spirit. No supposed gift of the Holy Spirit enables man to receive revelations which supersede or equal the written Word of God, although we do believe that the Holy Spirit enables believers to discover God’s individual will and direction for each person’s life.

Read:

- Genesis 1:2
- Numbers 24:2
- I Kings 18:12
- Job 33:4
- Psalm 139
- Jeremiah 31:31-34
- Ezekiel 8:3
- Matthew 1:18
- Matthew 3:16
- Matthew 4:1
- Matthew 12:28-31
- Matthew 28:18-20
- Luke 1:41, 67
- Luke 1:15
- Luke 4:18
- John 3:3-7
- John 16:7-15
- John 14:6; 26
- Acts 5:3-4
- Romans 8:9-11
- I Corinthians 2:10-13
- I Corinthians 6:19
- I Corinthians 12:11-13
- Ephesians 1:13-14
- Ephesians 4:30
- II Timothy 3:16
- Titus 3:5
- Hebrews 2:4

Listen

Listen to “Systematic Theology: Pneumatology I: The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit”
<http://www.dbcmedia.org/sermons/systematic-theology-pneumatology-i-the-doctrine-of-the-holy-spirit/>

His Personality

- A. The Words of Jesus (John 14:6)
- B. Intellect (I Corinthians 2:10)
- C. Will (I Corinthians 12:11)
- D. Emotion (Ephesians 4:30)
- E. Activity (Ephesians 4:30, Matthew 12:31, Acts 5:3)

His Divinity:

- A. He is called God (Acts 5:3-4)
- B. He is associated with the Trinity (Matthew 28:18-20)
- C. He creates (Genesis 1:2, Job 33:4)
- D. He raises from the dead (Romans 8:11)
- E. He bestows divine life (I Corinthians 12:13)
- F. He communicates God’s unknowable truths (I Corinthians 2:13)
- G. His is all-powerful (Genesis 1:2)
- H. He is omnipresent (Psalm 139)
- I. He is omniscient (Psalm 139)

His Work:

- A. In the Old Testament
 - 1. He creates (Genesis 1:2, Job 33:4)
 - 2. He anoints judges, kings and workers
 - 3. He reveals to prophets (Numbers 24:2)
 - 4. He physically transports (I Kings 18:12)
 - 5. He spiritually transports (Ezekiel 8:3)
- B. In the New Testament
 - 1. The Ministry of Christ
 - a. The conception of Christ (Matthew 1:18)
 - b. The praise of God through Mary and Elizabeth (Luke 1:41, 67)
 - c. The ministry of John the Baptist (Luke 1:15)
 - d. The empowering of Jesus (Matthew 3:16)
 - e. The leading of Jesus (Matthew 4:1)
 - f. The preaching of Jesus (Luke 4:18)
 - g. The miracles of Jesus (Matthew 12:28)
 - h. The miracles of the disciples (Hebrews 2:4)
 - 2. In Conversion
 - a. The inspiration of New Testament authors (II Timothy 3:16, I Corinthians 2:12, John 16:13-15, John 14:26)
 - b. Conviction (John 16:7-11)
 - c. Conversion (John 3:5, Titus 3:5, Jeremiah 31:31-34)

- d. Baptism into Christ (I Corinthians 12:13)
- e. He gives gifts to believers (I Corinthians 12:11)
- f. He indwells (I Corinthians 6:19)
- g. He seals (Ephesians 1:13)
- h. He secures (Ephesians 1:13)

React

1. After reading the BRBC's doctrinal statement are there parts that may concern you?

2. What part of the mp3 did you find new and useful?

3. Are there parts of the doctrine as presented in the mp3 that you have trouble with and if so then what troubles you?

4. What warrants further study?

5. Based on the church's doctrine of the Holy Spirit, what specific ways could you sharpen your own life?

For Further Study

On the Holy Spirit's Personhood:

Ryrie, Chapter 59, pages 343-344

Grudem: Chapter 14, pages 231-233

On the Holy Spirit's Deity:

Ryrie, Chapter 59, pages 344-345

Grudem: Chapter 14, pages 233-238

On the Holy Spirit's work in the Old Testament:

Ryrie, Chapter 60, pages 346-349
Grudem: Chapter 30, pages 636-637

On the Holy Spirit's work in Christ's Ministry:
Ryrie, Chapter 61, pages 350-354

On the Holy Spirit's work in Conversion:
Ryrie, Chapters 62-66, pages 355-379
Grudem: Chapter 39, pages 763-784

Session 5—The Doctrine of The Holy Spirit, Part 2

Introduction

See Part 1

Prepare

BRBC Doctrinal Statement on The Holy Spirit: See Part 1

Read:

- Joel 2:28-32
- Acts 1:8
- Acts 8:29, 39
- Acts 13:1-9
- Acts 15:28
- Acts 16:6
- Acts 20:28
- Romans 8:14-16; 26-27
- Galatians 5:18, 22
- Ephesians 5:18
- Ephesians 6:18
- Philippians 2:1
- II Thessalonians 2:6-7
- I John 2:27
- Jude 1:20
- Revelation 1:4-5

Listen

Listen to “Systematic Theology: Pneumatology II: His Work and the Believer”

<http://www.dbcmedia.org/sermons/systematic-theology-pneumatology-ii-his-work-and-the-believer/>

(Continued from Session 4)

His Work:

B. In the New Testament

3. In Sanctification

- a. He illumines scripture (I John 2:27)
- b. He fills (Ephesians 5:18)
- c. He leads (Galatians 5:18)
- d. He assures (Romans 8:16)
- e. He identifies (Romans 8:14)
- f. He produces Christ-likeness (Galatians 5:22)
- g. He frees from the Law (Galatians 5:18)
- h. He helps us in prayer (Romans 8:26-27, Jude 1:20, Ephesians 6:18)
- i. He inspires true fellowship (Philippians 2:1)
- j. He directs His church (Acts 13:1-2, Acts 8:29, 39, Acts 13:4, Acts 15:28, Acts 16:6)
- k. He aids in witnessing (Acts 1:8, Acts 13:9)
- l. He raises up leaders (Acts 20:28)

4. In the Tribulation (II Thessalonians 2:6-7)
5. In the Kingdom (Joel 2:28-32)
6. In Eternity (Revelation 1:4-5)

React

1. What aspects of BRBC's doctrinal statement might you find troubling?

2. What parts of this mp3 would you want to explore more?

3. What are your reactions to the doctrine as presented in the mp3?

4. What questions do you have that warrant further study?

5. What aspects of your own life may need changing based on the church's doctrine of the Holy Spirit?

6. Write a short (no more than a single page) statement of your own view on the doctrine of the Holy Spirit.

For Further Study

On the Holy Spirit's work in Sanctification:

Ryrie, Chapter 67, pages 380-382

Grudem: Chapter 30, pages 640-649

Session 6—The Doctrine of Satan

Introduction

Mankind is fallen and sinful. This is clear to us both from the teaching of scripture and from our experience living in the fallen world. All that is difficult and painful in the world—physical pain and illness; emotional betrayal and pain; intellectual error; social disintegration; spiritual error and rebellion and physical and spiritual death—all is the result of sin and rebellion against God. This sin has its origin in Adam’s and Eve’s first temptation and failure and that has its origin in the Father of Lies: Satan, the source of evil in the world. In this session, we’ll talk about both Satan and sin: what the Bible teaches about him, his origins, his work and his end; and about the sin that pervades our earth and still affects us in this world despite haven been conquered by Christ’s death and resurrection.

Note: Twelve minutes in, the speaker says “God uses evil for his own purposes.” He is quite correct on this point, though we might not phrase it exactly as the speaker does. One hearing the statement might take this to mean, “evil is a tool in God’s toolbox” which would be grievous error. If we take it, however, to mean “man is inclined to evil, but God, knowing the evil will happen and the effects it will cause, and weaves those effects into His sovereign plan,” we would agree with that view and agree that the Bible is very clear in both saying and demonstrating this principle.

Prepare

BRBC Doctrinal Statement on Sin: [BRBC does not have, within our doctrinal statement, a specific category on the doctrine of Satan. Instead, we include here our doctrinal statement on sin, which crosses the categories of Satan (this session) and Man (next session).]

Sin, which originated with Satan, entered into the human race through Adam. The penalty of sin is physical and spiritual death. Every man who has ever lived, except Jesus Christ, has personally committed sin. There are several types of sin including: a transgression or violation of God’s law; iniquity, that is an act which is inherently evil; failing to do what is right; missing the mark; acting in accordance with self will rather than the will of God; rebellion against God; unbelief or a denial of the truth of God. The only cure for sin is salvation through Jesus Christ.

Read:

- Genesis 2:16-17
- Genesis 3-4
- Genesis 6:1-4
- I Chronicles 21:1
- Job 1
- Psalm 106:35-37
- Isaiah 14:12-14
- Ezekiel 28:11-15
- Ezekiel 28:16-17
- Zechariah 3:1-5
- Matthew 4
- Matthew 13:38-39
- Luke 8:28
- Luke 11:21-23
- John 3:36
- John 8:44
- John 14:30
- John 16:11
- Acts 13:10
- Acts 26:18

- Romans 3:23
- Romans 6:23
- I Corinthians 2:14
- II Corinthians 4:4
- II Corinthians 11:3, 14-15
- Ephesians 2:1-3
- Colossians 2:15
- II Thessalonians 2:6-8
- I Timothy 2:3-14
- I Timothy 3:7
- I Timothy 4:1-2
- I Peter 5:8-9
- I John 1:8
- I John 3:8-10
- I John 5:19
- Revelation 2:10
- Revelation 12:4-5; 13-17
- Revelation 13:9-11
- Revelation 17:1-5
- Revelation 20:1-3; 7-10

Listen

Listen to “Systematic Theology: Satanology: The Doctrine of the Devil”

<http://www.dbcmedia.org/sermons/systematic-theology-satanology-the-doctrine-of-the-devil/>

His Creation (Ezekiel 28:11-15)

His Sin (Ezekiel 28:16-17; Isaiah 14:12-14; I Timothy 3:7)

His Corruption or Fall (John 8:44)

His Place in God’s Plan (Job 1)

His Work Throughout History

- A. At the Fall of Man (Genesis 3; I John 5:19; Ephesians 2:2; II Corinthians 4:4; I John 3:10; John 8:44)
- B. At the Corruption of Civilization (Genesis 4 and John 8:44)
- C. At the Destruction of the Old World (Genesis 6:1-4)
- D. At the Corruption of the Post-Flood World (Psalm 106:35-37; compare with I Corinthians 10:20)
- E. At the Corruption of Israel (I Chronicles 21:1; Zechariah 3:1-5)
- F. In the Ministry of Christ (Revelation 12:4-5; Matthew 4; Luke 8:28; 11:21-23; I John 3:8; John 14:30; 16:11; Colossians 2:15)
- G. In the Ministry of Paul (Acts 13:10; Acts 26:18)
- H. In the Church Age
 1. To create false “Christians” (Matthew 13:38-39)
 2. To raise up false teachers (I Timothy 4:1-2; II Corinthians 11:14-15)
 3. To deceive the saints (II Corinthians 11:3)
 4. To persecute the saints (Revelation 2:10; I Peter 5:8-9)

His Future

- A. In the Tribulation
 1. The arise of the Anti-Christ (II Thessalonians 2:6-8; Revelation 13:9)
 2. The arise of the false prophet (Revelation 13:11)

3. The arise of the false church (Revelation 17:1-5)
4. The persecution of Israel (Revelation 12:13-17)
- B. In the Kingdom (Revelation 20:1-3; 7-9)
- C. In Eternity (Revelation 20:10)

React

1. What do you disagree with in the BRBC's doctrinal statement on the subject of sin?

2. In discussing sin in the mp3 what did you think?

3. For the doctrine on Satan as presented in the mp3, what might you have found puzzling troubling?

4. What questions warrant further study?

5. Based on the presented doctrine of Satan and the church's doctrine of sin, what do you need to change, work on, improve or sharpen in your own life?

6. Write a short (no more than a single page) statement of your own view on the doctrine of Satan and sin.

For Further Study

On Satan's personality and creation:

Ryrie, Chapters 22-23, pages 137-143

Grudem: Chapter 20, pages 412-415

On Satan's sin and fall:

Ryrie, Chapter 23, pages 143-145

Grudem: Chapter 20, page 415

On Satan's work in history:

Ryrie, Chapter 24, pages 146-150

Grudem: Chapter 20, pages 416-419

On Sin:

Ryrie, Chapters 34-39, pages 209-236

Grudem: Chapter 24, pages 490-514

Session 7—The Doctrine of Man

Introduction

To have a right view of God, we must have a right view of Man and, of course, in this context when we speak of “man” we mean mankind in the way God created us: men and women. Today’s world often gets two truths wrong: first, we think we are “OK” there is nothing really wrong with the human race. We are not fallen. On the other hand, most in our world believe we are not special, we are only a higher order of animal, evolved to a higher level and there is nothing inherently dignified about being a human. Both views are profound errors. We can only understand our need for God by understanding our hopeless fallenness. We can only appreciate God’s grace, love and mercy if we understand the majesty of being made in His image.

Note: About 29 minutes in, the speaker indicates “you put the bad guys where they don’t have to worry about God, that’s called hell, and the good guys where they don’t have to worry about Satan. That’s called heaven.” He does not, of course, mean “good” and “bad” based on anything we have done, but on our relationship to God’s righteousness through Christ. Later, he says of God, “...He’s Godzilla...” While we understand his point within the context of what he said, it’s not a metaphor we would use as it equates God with His creation.

Prepare

BRBC Doctrinal Statement on Man: Man was created in the image of God with the spiritual purpose and ability to glorify God. Man possesses a body, soul, and spirit. Every man will exist eternally, either in everlasting life or in eternal punishment. Believing the entire Bible to be the infallible and inerrant Word of God, we believe the account of the creation and fall of Adam and Eve recorded in Genesis to be literally true. All men were “in Adam” when he sinned. Therefore, sin is imputed to all men and every man is born with a sin nature. Man is totally depraved, that is he is incapable of any work which will release him from the bondage or penalty of sin. Left to himself, man will never seek after God. However, despite his fallen nature, man’s worth is not to be taken lightly for it was for fallen sinful men that Jesus Christ gave His own life. Only through salvation may man participate in the divine nature and escape corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

Read:

- Genesis 1-4
- Genesis 9:6
- Psalm 8
- John 6:37
- Romans 2:2-5
- Romans 3:23
- Romans 4:4-5
- Romans 5:8-12
- Romans 8:17; 29
- Romans 9:15-16
- II Corinthians 4:4
- II Corinthians 5:21
- Ephesians 1:13-14
- Ephesians 2:1; 8-10
- Ephesians 3:10
- Philippians 3:21
- Colossians 1:14
- II Timothy 1:9
- II Timothy 2:11
- Revelation 20:5-10
- Revelation 22:1-5

Listen

Listen to “Systematic Theology: Anthropology: The Doctrine of Man”

<http://www.dbcmedia.org/sermons/systematic-theology-anthropology-the-doctrine-of-man/>

His Purpose: (Ephesians 3:10)

His Creation: (Genesis 1 and 2): To know God, enjoy God, serve God, worship God and glorify God

His Glory: (Psalm 8): The vice-regent of God

His Fall:

- A. His position: “Children of wrath...”, “children of the devil...”, you are of your father, the devil...”
- B. His Nature: “dead”
 - 1. His mind (II Corinthians 4:4)
 - 2. His spirit (Romans 5:10)
 - 3. His body (Philippians 3:21)
- C. His Hope: “having no hope and without God...”

His Rebellion:

- A. In the Garden (Genesis 3)
- B. In the light of conscience (Genesis 4)
- C. Under the arm of government (Genesis 9)
- D. In light of God’s Promises (Genesis 12-50)
- E. Under Moses’ law (Exodus – Christ)
- F. Under Grace
- G. In Christ’s kingdom (Revelation 20:7-10)

His Salvation: (by grace ye were saved...” Ephesians 2:8)

- A. Through God’s election (II Timothy 1:9; Romans 9:15-16)
- B. Through Christ’s death (Romans 5:8; II Corinthians 5:21)
- C. Through efficacious grace or calling (Romans 8:29; John 6:37)
- D. Through imputation (Romans 4:4-5)
- E. Through the Spirit’s security (Ephesians 1:13-14)

His Exaltation: (Colossians 1:14; Romans 8:17)

His Rule: (II Timothy 2:11; Revelation 20:5)

Man in Eternity:

- A. To glorify God (Ephesians 2:10; 3:10)
- B. To enjoy God (Revelation 22:1-5)

React

1. Where might you diverge from BRBC's doctrinal statement as presented in Session 7?
2. What was the most interesting point made in the mp3?
3. What do you think about the doctrine as presented in the? What points have you not considered before?
4. What questions do you have that warrant further study?
5. Based on the presented doctrine of man, what do you need to change, work on, improve or sharpen in your own life?
6. Summarize (no more than a single page) your own view on the doctrine of man.

For Further Study

On Man's Creation:

Ryrie, Chapter 31, pages 189-194

Grudem: Chapter 21, pages 439-444

On Man's Glory:

Ryrie, Chapter 32, pages 195-200

Grudem: Chapter 21, pages 442-444

On Man's Fall:

Ryrie, Chapter 33, pages 201-206

Grudem: Chapter 21, page 444

On Man's Salvation:

Grudem: Chapter 21, page 445

On Man's Exaltation:

Grudem: Chapter 21, page 445

Session 8—The Doctrine of Salvation

Introduction

Saved. It is the central truth of who we are in Christ and of our relationship with God. But we can be far too trite with the phrase and the doctrine. Only through understanding what occurs when we are saved, and what we are saved from can we really understand the power of God, His grace and His marvelous mercy on our behalf. Only by understanding the real, eternal peril of our neighbors who don't know God can we have the passion and mercy for them that will help us engage with them and seek to bring them to the God we love.

Prepare

BRBC Doctrinal Statement on Salvation: Salvation from the penalty and power of sin is obtainable exclusively through Jesus Christ. Salvation is bound up in the Gospel (Good News) of Jesus Christ, that is His death, burial, and resurrection, which paid the penalty for our sins. The shed blood of Jesus Christ was necessary for the forgiveness of our sin. Salvation is a free gift of God and can never be earned by any amount of good works. Man is saved by faith in Jesus Christ which includes repentance of his sin and acceptance of the work of Christ on the cross for forgiveness of sin. Saving faith must include an understanding of who Jesus is and what he has done for us, belief of these facts, and trust in the Person and work of Christ. Salvation, once obtained, is eternally secure.

Read:

- John 3:16
- John 16:8-11
- Acts 2:39
- Acts 4:12
- Acts 13:38-39
- Acts 16:14; 31
- Romans 3:28
- Romans 4:4-5
- Romans 5:1
- Romans 8:29-30
- Romans 9:18
- I Corinthians 15:1-4
- II Corinthians 5:21
- Ephesians 1:4-5; 13
- Ephesians 2:8-9
- I Thessalonians 4:11
- II Thessalonians 2:13
- Titus 3:5
- Hebrews 7:25
- Hebrews 9:15
- I Peter 1:2
- Jude 1:1

Listen

Listen to “Systematic Theology: Soteriology I: The Doctrine of Salvation”

<http://www.dbcmedia.org/sermons/systematic-theology-soteriology-i-the-doctrine-of-salvation/>

Listen to “Systematic Theology: Soteriology II: The Doctrine of Salvation”

<http://www.dbcmedia.org/sermons/systematic-theology-soteriology-ii-the-doctrine-of-salvation/>

The Nature of the Lost (Is man weak or dead? Is salvation a work of God alone or a co-operative work of God and man?)

- A. The Pelagian Position: Man is alive...i.e., man saves.
- B. The Augustinian / Reformed position: Man is dead...i.e., God saves
- C. The Arminian position: Man is weak...i.e., God and man save

The Ground of Salvation: Christ's Death

- A. Atonement: "at-one-meet" Lit: "covering"
- B. Propitiation: to "satisfy" wrath
- C. Redemption: "to purchase" or "to free"
- D. Ransom: the payment to free another
- E. Reconciliation: to "change back" to a peaceful state
- F. Imputation or Reckoning: "to place to the account"
- G. Righteousness: a divine, moral standard
- H. Substitution: His death "in our place"

Types of Salvation

- A. Adam
- B. The sacrifice in Eden
- C. Abel's sacrifice
- D. Noah's ark
- E. Abraham's faith
- F. Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac
- G. Jacob's ladder
- H. Joseph
- I. Passover
- J. The Day of Atonement
- K. The temple
- L. The priesthood
- M. Moses
- N. David

Theories of Christ's Death

- A. The Example Theory
- B. The Governmental Theory
- C. The Abelardian Theory
- D. The Penal Substitute or Literal View

The Extent of Christ's Death: Limited or Unlimited?

The Efficacy of Christ's Death: "He is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through Him" (Hebrews 7:25)

A Chronology of Salvation:

- A. Foreknowledge (Romans 8:29; I Peter 1:2) and Election (Ephesians 1:4; Romans 9:18)

- B. Calling (II Thessalonians 2:13; Romans 8:30; Acts 2:39; John 16:8-11; Jude 1:1; Acts 16:14; Hebrews 9:15)
- C. Faith: “sola fide” (Romans 3:28)
- D. Imputation (II Corinthians 5:21)
- E. Regeneration (Titus 3:5)
- F. Sealing (Ephesians 1:13)
- G. Resurrection (I Thessalonians 4:11)

React

1. What do you disagree with, if anything, about BRBC’s doctrinal statement related to salvation?

2. What was the most noteworthy point made in the mp3?

3. What do you disagree with or find troubling about the doctrine as presented in the mp3?

4. What questions do you have about salvation that warrant further study?

5. Based on the presented doctrine of salvation, what do you need to change, work on, improve or sharpen in your own life?

6. Write a short (no more than a single page) statement of your own view on the doctrine of salvation.

For Further Study

On Christ’s death

Ryrie, Chapter 50, pages 281-285

Grudem: Chapter 27, pages 568-578

On the meaning of Christ's death

Ryrie, Chapter 51, pages 286-297

Grudem: Chapter 27, pages 579-581

Theories of the meaning of Christ's death

Ryrie, Chapter 53, pages 308-309

Grudem: Chapter 27, pages 581-586

The extent of Christ's death and the doctrine of election

Ryrie, Chapters 54-55, pages 310-323

Grudem: Chapter 32, pages 669-684

The security of the believer

Ryrie, Chapters 57, pages 328-334

Grudem: Chapter 40, pages 788-807

Session 9—The Doctrine of The Church

Introduction

The Church is the body of Christ—and the bride of Christ. These are powerful metaphors for understanding who we are, as a body of Christ-followers. Yet they offer just a glimpse of who we are and who we should be in this world. What exactly is the Church? Who is the Church? What part does Blue Ridge Bible Church play within the whole? All these are important questions for us to wrestle with and to understand, as well as we can, in order both to carry out the mission God has given us in the world and to care for the Church of God in the world and in Purcellville. Let's take a look at this most important doctrine of the church.

Note: The speaker, in describing Israel and the Church uses a football recruit metaphor: the "Blue Chip" recruits and the "Cow Chip" recruits. At Blue Ridge, we don't see it that way: Israel is God's chosen people, now in rebellion against Him, but who will turn to Him in the end through His Messiah, but the Church also is God's chosen people to do His mission in the world now. Ultimately, we are one people of God who will be united with Him in eternity as His unified family. We don't see Israel as the "first team" and the Church as the "second team."

Prepare

BRBC Doctrinal Statement on The Church (Ecclesiology): Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church universal and this local body. The church universal is the body of true believers throughout the earth. No single human organization comprises the church universal. This is a local church and is not subject to any higher human authority, but we remain the willing bondslaves and servants of Jesus Christ. A local church is to be governed by elders and deacons, and both groups are to be directly accountable to the body of believers as they are also accountable to Jesus Christ.

Read:

- I Timothy 3:14-15
- Colossians 3:16
- Ephesians 4:11-13
- Luke 6:35-36

Listen

Listen to "The Church: Its Identity"

<https://www.dbcmedia.org/sermons/the-church-its-identity/>

Listen to "The Church: Its Purpose"

<https://www.dbcmedia.org/sermons/the-churchs-purpose-why-we-are-here-2/>

What is the Church?

- A. A people
1. Local
 2. Universal

3. Historic
- B. A chosen people
- C. A people whose end is marked out beforehand: Predestined
- D. A moral, holy, pure and good people
- E. A people in covenant with God
- F. A distinct people
 1. We have a king
 2. We have a new nature
 3. We have a book
 4. We have a code of conduct
 5. We have an enemy no one else has
 6. We are light and salt
 7. We are a mingled people
 8. We are a unified people
 9. We are not Israel
- G. The true and false Church
- H. Purposes of the Church
 1. Worship and praise God (Colossians 3:16)
 2. Building up of the body of Christ (Ephesians 4:11-13)
 3. Ministry of mercy to the world (Luke 6:35-36)

What is the Church Producing?

- A. Committed People
 1. To the Lord
 2. To God's word
 3. To God's people
 4. To God's Cause
- B. Competent People
- C. Creative People who spread the gospel wherever they go

What Does the Church Need to Do Well to Produce These People?

- A. Teach
- B. Train
- C. Trust
- D. Time

React

1. What do you disagree with or find troubling about BRBC's doctrinal statement?

2. What was the most intriguing or interesting point made in the mp3?

3. What do you disagree with or find troubling about the doctrine as presented in the mp3?

4. What questions do you have that warrant further study?

5. Based on the presented doctrine of the church, what do you need to change, work on, improve or sharpen in your own life?

6. Write a short (no more than a single page) statement of your own view on the doctrine of ecclesiology.

For Further Study

What is the Church?

Ryrie, Chapter 69, pages 393-396

Grudem: Chapter 44, pages 853-864

The distinctiveness of the Church

Ryrie, Chapters 70, pages 397-402

Grudem: Chapter 44, pages 864-867

The purpose of the Church

Grudem: Chapter 44, pages 867-869

Session 10—The Doctrine of Eschatology

Introduction

Eschatology. What is coming in the future has the captivate us, to enthrall our imagination, to dominate our thinking and study of scripture and our view of God. That He gave us a peek into the future and preserved it for so many generations is a grace of God: He has a plan and has given us enough of a taste of that plan to build a solid foundation for our hope in Him. But we also are grounded in the here-and-now with an important mission to be His church in Purcellville. At BRBC we want to create this careful balance: to be a church that understands and hopes in the future God plans, but that does not allow over-emphasis on the details (and considerable arguments about) that future to distract us from the mission God gave us for today.

Prepare

BRBC Doctrinal Statement on Eschatology (Second Coming): We believe in the literal return of Jesus Christ to the earth as He promised. We believe that this will occur prior to the millennium. We also believe that the church universal will be raptured, that is to be caught up together and meet the Lord in the air, and that this may happen at any moment. We believe in the bodily resurrection of believers who have died to join with those who are alive to meet Christ. We believe that subsequent to the rapture the earth will be gripped in seven years of intense tribulation after which Christ and his forces will return to earth, take dominion, and rule on earth for a thousand years. The Eternal Kingdom will be established in heaven subsequent to the Great White Throne judgment in which all unbelievers will be judged. Satan and all his forces will be defeated and cast into the Lake of Fire.

Read:

- Genesis 12:1-3
- Deuteronomy 30:1-10
- II Samuel 7
- Jeremiah 31:31-34
- Daniel 9:27
- II Thessalonians 2:3-4
- Revelation 7:1-8
- I Timothy 4:1-5
- II Timothy 3:1-9
- Daniel 2; 7
- Revelation 17

Listen

Listen to “Systematic Theology: Eschatology I: The Doctrine of Last Things”

<http://www.dbcmedia.org/sermons/systematic-theology-eschatology-the-doctrine-of-last-things/>

Listen to “Systematic Theology: Eschatology II: Man’s Coming Kingdom”

<http://www.dbcmedia.org/sermons/systematic-theology-eschatology-2-mans-coming-kingdom/>

For Further Study

Premillennialism

Ryrie, Chapter 80, pages 450-452

The Covenants

Ryrie, Chapters 81-82, pages 453-460

Session 11—The Doctrine of Eschatology, Part 2

Introduction

See Part 1.

Prepare

BRBC Doctrinal Statement on Eschatology (Second Coming): See Part 1.

Read:

- I Thessalonians 1:10
- II Thessalonians 2:1-12
- II Corinthians 5:10
- Revelation 19:7-8
- Revelation 6-19
- Ezekiel 38-39
- Daniel 7; 12
- Matthew 24; 25:31-46
- Revelation 20-22

Listen

Listen to “Systematic Theology: Eschatology III: The Doctrine of Last Things”

<http://www.dbcmmedia.org/sermons/systematic-theology-eschatology-2-mans-coming-kingdom/>

The Church Age in Context

The Rapture

- A. Removes God’s people from justice and judgment (I Thessalonians 1:10)
- B. Removes the restraint on evil (II Thessalonians 2:1-12)
- C. Removes the Church and returns to Israel as God’s people in the world

The Judgment Seat of Christ

- A. Christians give accounting of their deeds (II Corinthians 5:10; Revelation 19:7-8)

The Day of God—The Tribulation (Revelation 6-19; Ezekiel 38-39; Daniel 7; 12; Matthew 24)

- A. Purposes
 1. Renewal of God’s purposes for Israel
 2. Final Judgment of mankind
- B. Events
 1. First three years
 2. Middle of the tribulation
 3. Last three years
 4. The Coming and Revelation of Jesus Christ

The Kingdom—Christ’s Reign in the Millennium (Matthew 25:31-46; Revelation 20:1-6)

- A. Resurrection of the Dead

