

The Development of Christian Doctrine

Soteriology:

What does it mean to be
saved?

Part II

Universal Definition of Salvation:

Salvation is the application of the work of Jesus Christ to an individual's life with evidenced consequences

Six Areas of Discussion and Debate on Salvation

1. Time

- ✓ One time act or life long process
- ✓ Been, being, will be saved
- ✓ Justification, Sanctification, Glorification

2. Need

- ✓ What is the fundamental human problem
- ✓ Sin as vertical, horizontal, and internal issue

3. Transmission

- ✓ How is salvation/grace obtained?
- ✓ Sacramentalist, Moralistic, Evangelical

4. Movement

✓ In what way and what direction does salvation flow between self and society?

5. Scope

- ✓ Who will be saved?
- ✓ Particularist and Universalist perspectives

6. Means and Mediator

Is Jesus Christ the *only*
way?

Means of Salvation

To what degree does salvation exist outside of Jesus Christ?

Pluralist Perspective

Salvation certainly exists outside
of Jesus Christ

✓ Gen. 18:25

✓ So many non-Christians in the
world

Inclusivist Perspective

Salvation possibly exists outside
of Jesus Christ

- ✓ John 10:16
- ✓ How do you deal with the other Abrahamic faiths?

Exclusivist Perspective

Salvation rests in Jesus Christ
alone

✓ Jn 14:6; Acts 4:12; Phil 2:9,10

Contemporary Theologies

Liberation

The basic problem of life and the world is the oppression and exploitation of the powerless by the powerful. The success of the elite is achieved at the expense of the poor.

Liberation

- God is on the side of the oppressed against the oppressor
- Salvation is the liberation of all persons from oppression

Liberation

- ✓ Liberation is the fulfillment of the Kingdom of God on earth - it is God's goal and our assignment
- ✓ Black, Latin, Feminist, Gay

Secularist

In the early periods of humanity people believed in God out of a necessity to understand inexplicable phenomena.

That faith was challenged by the
Enlightenment

Secularist

Today, people put their trust in the empirical and religion is no longer a necessity or effective.

There is no place for God.

There are some who see secularism as the maturing of faith.

Secularist

- ✓ God guides secularization because His goal is to free us from need
- ✓ *Death of God & Religionless Christianity* movement (1960-77)

Secularist

✓ Salvation is not through religion but from religion, becoming independent of God, maximizing self, becoming active in the world

Roman Catholic

Vatican II (1962-65)

- Lay Participation in liturgy
- Encouraged the open study of the Bible
- Reinforced the role of Bishop
- Reinforced use of common language

Roman Catholic

- Agreed the sanctification and truth can be found outside of the Catholic Church

Roman Catholic

✓ Catholics

✓ Non-Catholic Christians –
although they are not as secure
they have genuine churches
and are not separated from
grace

Roman Catholic

- ✓ Non-Christians (anonymous Christians) – Those outside of the Church and Christianity who are yet recipients of God's grace

Evangelical

Sin is the fundamental human problem. It is primarily a broken relationship between humanity and God that negatively affects other dimensions of life

Evangelical

- ✓ Because of sin, all humans have a corrupted nature and inclination to evil
- ✓ Sin affects and destroys personal and collective relationships

Evangelical Aspects of Salvation

Aspects of Salvation

- ✓ Election / Foreknowledge /
Predestination
- ✓ Justification
- ✓ Adoption

Aspects of Salvation

- ✓ Regeneration / Born Again
 - ✓ Sanctification
 - ✓ Glorification
 - ✓ Perseverance

Means of Salvation

- Exclusivist or Inklusivist
 - Particularist
- Through the Word of God
(I Peter 1:23-25)
- By Faith (Eph. 2:8,9)