

# Christian Beliefs

## Doctrine of Salvation

### Section 1—Doctrine

#### Crosspointe Community Church—statement of faith

**Salvation:** *We believe that salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus Christ alone, and that true faith in the gospel will be made evident by a life of repentance and godliness. (Eph. 2:8–10; Rom. 10:9; Phil. 2:12)*

#### I. Order of salvation events (many are instantaneous)

- i. **Election** (God's choice of people to be saved)—Eph. 1:3-6  
*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup>even as he chose (elect) us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love <sup>5</sup>he predestined us<sup>[b]</sup> for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved*
- ii. **Gospel call** (proclaiming the message of gospel)—Rom. 8:30  
*And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.*
- iii. **Regeneration** (born again)—Eph. 2; 4,5 | John 5:1  
*But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—*
- iv. **Conversion** (faith—*“pistis” in Greek—used 450 x’s, as noun—“faith” and 287 x’s as verb—“believe”*—and repentance)—Acts 20:21; Eph. 2:8-10  
*“testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.”*
- v. **Justification** (right legal standing)—Rom. 3:22-24  
*<sup>22</sup> the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: <sup>23</sup>for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup>and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,*
- vi. **Adoption** (membership in God's family)—Rom. 8:14-17; Gal. 4:4-7  
*<sup>4</sup>But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup>And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.*
- vii. **Sanctification** (right conduct of life)—Rom. 6:12-13; Phil 2:12-13  
*<sup>12</sup>Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. <sup>13</sup>Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.*
- viii. **Perseverance** (remaining a Christian)—Phil. 1:6; Jn. 10:27-29  
*<sup>27</sup>My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup>I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my*

hand. <sup>29</sup> My Father, who has given them to me,<sup>[a]</sup> is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.

ix. **Death** (going to be with the Lord)—Phil. 1:21

<sup>21</sup> For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

x. **Glorification** (receiving a resurrection body)—I Cor. 15:52-53

<sup>52</sup> in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. <sup>53</sup> For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.

## II. Justification

A. **Scripture**—Rom. 8:30, 3:26

*are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup> whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. <sup>26</sup> It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.*

B. **Definition:** "Justification is an instantaneous legal act of God in which he (1) thinks of our sins as forgiven and Christ's righteousness as belonging to us and (2) declares us righteous in his sight."--Grudem

C. **Justification is a legal declaration**

a. Not makes us righteous—Rom. 4:5

<sup>5</sup> And to the one who does not work but believes in<sup>[a]</sup> him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness,

b. Justify is the verb of the noun righteous—forensic, legal—"dikios"

c. Regeneration is an act of God in us—justification is a judgment of God

d. The declaration is that we are just in his sight

i. Forgiveness of past sin (Rom. 8:1; 4:6-8)—Taken away

*"Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered;*

*<sup>8</sup> blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin."*

ii. Imputation of Christ's righteousness (2 Cor. 5:21)—Received  
Union with Christ

<sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

e. The declaration is just because God imputes Christ's righteousness to us

i. Our sin is imputed to Christ—2 Cor. 5:21

<sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

ii. We receive Christ's righteousness—Phil. 3:9

*and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith,*

iii. His is just in justifying—Rom. 3:26

<sup>26</sup> It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

iv. Roman Catholics—infuse vs Protestant impute (or reckon)

f. Justification is entirely of grace—Eph. 2:8-9

- g. Justification is through faith—Rom 5:1
  - i. Faith is opposite of self-dependence
  - ii. Leads to works—James, Rom (obedience of faith)

### III. Sanctification

- I. **Definition:** “Sanctification is a progressive work of God and man that makes us more and more free from sin and like Christ in our actual lives.”-Grudem

Justification	Sanctification
Legal standing	Internal condition
Once for all time	Continuous through life
God’s work entirely	We cooperate
Perfect in this life	Not perfect in this life
All the same in Christ	Greater in some than others

- II. **Begin at regeneration**—I. Jn. 3:9  
*<sup>9</sup> No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's<sup>[b]</sup> seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God.*
- III. **Sanctification increases through life**—Rom. 6:12-13  
*<sup>12</sup> Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. <sup>13</sup> Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. <sup>14</sup> For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.*
- IV. **Sanctification completed at resurrection**—Phil. 3:21  
*<sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup> who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.*
- V. **Not complete in this life**—Rom. 7, I Jn. 1

### VI. Man and God cooperate in sanctification

- i. **God’s role**—I Thess. 5:23  
*<sup>23</sup> Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup> He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.*
- ii. **Man’s role**—Rom. 6:13—Yield
  - 1. Rom. 6:13—Yield
  - 2. Phi. 2:12-13—Work out salvation
  - 3. Heb. 12:14—Strive

4. Heb. 10:24-25—encourage others.

## **Section 2—Practicing the doctrine of salvation**

1. Emphasize the doctrine of grace and help people to move from the notion of entitlement—Eph. 2:8-10
2. Speak clearly of the need for regeneration and conversion. If one claims to be a Christian, we have all we need for life and godliness. Emphasize the reality of Rom. 6 that we have risen with Christ and should walk in newness of life and put off the deeds of the flesh
3. Justification is one of the great truths of the doctrine. It tells us that we can have our sins forgiven (guilt gone) and we have a position in union with Christ as a son of God—that is who we are.
4. We can be secure in the one who saves us based on his character, and the quality of his salvation not our merit.
5. The doctrine of sanctification is important for all believers. It is progressive but real. The Holy Spirit can bring about true change. 2 Peter 1:1-10 is great comfort and motivation for being holy.

### **Discussion questions:**

1. Some in your group share your salvation story?
2. Have you ever wondered if you were still saved? How did you deal with that unsettling thought?
3. What does being a child of God mean for you? How do you find meaning in life based on your position as a member of God's family?
4. Justification is an act of God declaring a sinner righteous. That is so helpful in daily life. How does that encourage you when you struggle with your own sin or with the reality of sin in the world?
5. What helps you in your life as a believer when you desire to live a holy life. What disciplines or practices help you to persevere in pursuing holiness How can you encourage others?