
Life Group Sermon Based Questions

"Soli Deo Gloria" (Romans 11:33-36) Pastor Peter Yi November 19, 2017

Please begin your discussion by going through the NCC (#47). If children are present, please include them too. Remember you can use the book, the phone app or the browser website. Conclude with the prayer together.

1. As you look back to the sermons that were preached this year...almost all were in some way or another on the Five Solas, is there any theme that really struck you? What is one area in which you sensed a deeper spiritual understanding of a concept or idea, or an area in your own life in which you grew? Has there been a deeper love for Jesus, a greater appreciation for His Gospel? Is there a deeper sense of your union with Christ? Has your love and appreciation for God's Word grown? Take some time to reflect and then share.

3. Let's go back to Gospel basics one more time. For what reason is it so important that we get the Gospel right? Remember Paul's rebuke of Peter in Galatians 2 that was over the Gospel. Share your reason. [possible answers might be: 1) the Bible grants us no liberty to distort the Gospel, so we must stay true to it; 2. A person's very salvation depends on getting the Gospel right. 3. The way we live out our lives as Christians, day to day, depends on a correct and deepening understanding of the Gospel. A correct understanding of the Gospel impacts our sanctification, the way we related to God, the way we view God, the way we view others]

4. Last week's sermon referred to the difficult doctrine of election. Election/predestination/God's sovereignty, these topics always bring up the counter-topic which is Free Will. Please try to understand it in this way. If we were to take the doctrine of predestination to its logical conclusion it would negate free will and if we were to take free will to its logical conclusion, it would negate God's sovereignty. The Bible prevents us from doing either, and robustly and unashamedly teaches both, often times in the same verse. So, we have to learn to live within this tension. Last week's message focused more on the predestination/election aspect, but remember that this does not negate our free will. (On a side note, if members want to explore this topic further, please recommend the book by RC Sproul, *Chosen By God* found in our bookstore.)

With that said, how is it that the doctrine of election should result in doxology? Another way to ask that question is: How does the doctrine of Justification by Faith Alone (which is rooted in God's sovereignty) lead to great worship and praise and glorifying God?

Think of it like this: many people struggle with the reality that all are not saved by God. That is a real struggle. The way that the Reformed person, or the person who believes in Reformed Theology (i.e. the Calvinist), thinks of it like this: they look at it from the other side. They struggle with or are amazed that God would save any! Why do they think that way? Because they understand the absolute depravity of our souls, that we are sinners and rebels before a holy and loving God. They are amazed that God would send his own Son for such rebels and further amazed that they would be among the elect, as they know that their salvation was not because of their own choice. Question: What do you think of this? What implication does this have toward your relationship with God, and even toward those who are not yet Christians?