

I. WHY ARE ESSENTIALS OF THE FAITH IMPORTANT?

1. They shape a right view of God
 - a) What comes into our mind when we think about God is the most important thing about us. -A.W. Tozer
 - b) If we misunderstand God, we will misunderstand ourselves, one another, and the world around us. Our view of God shapes our understanding of everything else.
2. They shape a right view of ourselves
 - a) How we see ourselves in light of truth will determine how we view our need for salvation.
3. They shape a right view of the true gospel
 - a) There are many false gospels, but only one that has the power to save.
4. They affect the quality of our worship
 - a) How we view God and what we believe about the bible will define the quality of our worship.
5. They unify the church
 - a) On essentials unity, on non-essentials liberty, it all things love.
6. They protect the church from deception
 - a) They protect the church because they establish the non-negotiable truths upon which Christianity stands. They function like guardrails, keeping believers anchored to the true gospel and preventing them from drifting into error.
7. They determine how we live ultimately affecting the lost world
 - a) What we believe will determine our view of life and will affect how we live.

II. THE ESSENTIAL BELIEF OF THE SINFUL AND FALLEN NATURE OF MAN

- A. The doctrines of the sinful depravity and fallen nature of humanity are essential to Christianity because they explain why humanity needs salvation and why Jesus Christ came into the world. *If these doctrines are denied, the gospel itself loses its meaning and we can misunderstand the future nature of God.*
- B. If we deny that humanity is born with an inherited sinful nature, we diminish the glory of God's redemptive plan. We reduce Jesus to merely a moral teacher rather than recognizing Him as the Savior and Lord who came to rescue sinners from sin, death, and the righteous judgment of God.
1. The doctrine of humanity's fall is what magnifies the necessity of the cross, the wonder of God's grace, and the transforming power of the gospel.

III. REASONS WHY IT IS ESSENTIAL

1. IT EXPLAINS HUMANITY'S GREATEST PROBLEM

- a) The Bible teaches that man's fundamental problem is not ignorance, lack of education, or lack of justice for all, but sin. *Humanity has been separated from God because of Adam's fall.*
- b) The bible describes man's condition as being blind, enslaved to sin, rebellious, lost, and evil.

(1) "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."-Romans 3:23

(2) ¹² Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned-Rom. 5:12

(3) "Surely there is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins."-Ecc. 7:20

(4) "Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me."-Ps. 51:5

(5) *And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins-Eph 2:2*

(6) *"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?"-Jer 17:9*

2. IT EXPLAINS EVIL AND SUFFERING

- a) If we don't believe in man sinful nature and fallen state then we can't give the world a true biblical explanation of all the evil, suffering, pain and death in the world.
- b) The Bible teaches that evil, suffering, and pain are the result of humanity's fall into sin, the ongoing effects of living in a fallen creation, the activity of Satan, and God's sovereign purposes in it all.

(1) *"The whole world lies in the power of the evil one."-1 John 5:19*

(2) *"The intention of man's heart is evil from his youth."-Gen 8:21*

(3) *"For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now."-Rom 8:20-22*

3. IT EXPLAINS WHY MAN NEEDS A SAVIOR

- a) If people are basically good and only need improvement in some areas, then Jesus becomes merely a moral teacher, therapist, and not a Savior.
- b) Scripture teaches instead that we are spiritually dead and unable to save ourselves.

(1) *"She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."-Mt. 1:21*

(2) ***"It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all." -1 Tim 1:15***

c) If we don't believe we are sick then there is no need for a physician.

(1) ***When Jesus heard it, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."-Mrk 2:17***

4. IT PROVES WHY SALVATION IS BY GRACE ALONE

a) The Bible teaches that man cannot save himself because our problem is not merely that we commit sinful acts, but that people are sinners by nature, spiritually dead, enslaved to sin, and unable to make themselves righteous before a holy God. Salvation must therefore come entirely by God's grace through Jesus Christ.

b) If humanity is not truly fallen, then God's grace becomes merely helpful rather than absolutely essential. But because we are spiritually dead, salvation is entirely a work of God's grace through Jesus Christ.

(1) ***⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. -Eph 2:8-9***

(2) ***⁴ But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, ⁵not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit-Titus 3:4-5***

5. IT EXPLAINS THE ABSOLUTE NEED FOR THE NEW BIRTH

a) Man does not need moral reformation; he needs spiritual regeneration. Sin has corrupted the very nature of humanity,

leaving us spiritually dead, guilty, and unable to save ourselves.

- b) Therefore, Jesus did not come merely to make bad people good, He came to make dead people alive. The new birth is God's supernatural work of giving new life, a new heart, and a new nature through faith in Christ.

(1) ⁵ ***Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. -Jn 3:5-6***

6. IT MAKES THE GOSPEL THE DIVINE ANSWER TO MANS GREATEST NEED

- a) The gospel is inseparably connected to the doctrine of humanity's sinfulness because the gospel is God's answer to humanity's greatest problem. *If we misunderstand the problem, we will inevitably misunderstand the solution.*

- b) If people are not truly fallen and sinful then:

- (1) God is not good and indifferent to evil
- (2) Christ's atoning death becomes unnecessary.
- (3) Grace becomes merely helpful instead of essential.
- (4) Faith becomes one option among many.
- (5) The gospel shifts from God's rescue to human self-improvement.

- c) Remove the doctrine of humanity's fallen condition, and the biblical gospel no longer makes sense.

(1) *It is the bad news that makes the good news of Jesus Christ both necessary and glorious.*

7. IT MAGNIFIES GOD OVER MAN

- a) Humanity's plague of sin and their fallen nature becomes the backdrop against which God's character is displayed most fully.
- b) God did not create sin because He needed glory, nor does He delight in evil. He is perfectly glorious in Himself from all eternity. Yet in His sovereignty, He ordained to permit the fall and through Christ, to accomplish a redemption that reveals dimensions of His character that includes His justice, mercy, grace, wisdom, patience, and love, that would otherwise have remained unknown to His creatures unless sin entered the world.

***(1) I would not have known sin except through the law.
For I would not have known covetousness unless the
law had said, "You shall not covet." - Rom 7:7***

- c) Genesis 50:20 illustrates this truth perfectly

(1) But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive. -Gen 50:20