

CONCERNING THE LORDSHIP OF CHRIST

AFFIRMATIONS AND DENIALS (TOPIC NO. 10)

I. **We affirm** that for the purposes of salvation, the Saviorhood of Christ and the Lordship of Christ cannot be separated.¹

We deny that anyone can receive Christ as his Savior while he consciously rejects Him as Lord. This is deception.²

1. Isaiah 55:6-7; Mat. 6:12; 7:21-27; 10:32-33; 11:28-29; Luke 18:18-30; 19:1-10; 24:46-47; Acts 2:37-38; 3:19; 5:31; 17:30; 16:31; 20:21; Romans 2:4; 4:23-24; 10:9; 2 Cor. 7:10; Heb. 5:9; 6:1; 1 Peter 1:2; Rev. 3:19
2. 1 Cor. 6:9-11; 1 John 3:6-8

II. **We affirm** that the attempt of some theologies to define Jesus for the purposes of salvation as simply the "God-man," without any reference to the authority of His Lordship, is to present a false Christ.

We deny that repentance is simply or only a change of mind about the identity of the God-man.

III. **We affirm** that saving faith is always an instrument or means through which Christ saves a sinner.¹ It is never a meritorious basis of salvation.²

We deny that a person can come to saving faith unless the Spirit of the Lord draws that person.³

1. John 3:15-16, 18, 36; 5:24; Acts 10:43; Rom. 3:23-26; 10:9-10
2. Rom. 3:27-28; Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 3:5-7
3. John 6:44,65; Titus 3:3-7

IV. **We affirm** that repentance is prerequisite to salvation¹ and entails acknowledgment of the mind and heart of the sinner concerning his sinfulness, his lost estate, and his need for turning from his sin,² and his coming under the ownership and lordship of Christ for obedience to His commands.³

We deny that one has the prerequisite repentance if he believes he can adequately deal with his sin by simply implementing a plan of reform.⁴

1. Luke 24:46-47; Acts 2:37-38; 3:19; 5:31; 17:30; 20:21; 26:18; Rom. 2:4; 2 Cor. 7:10; 1 John 3:6-8; 2:1-6
2. Psalm 32:5; 51:1-19; Pro. 28:13; Jer. 3:13; Ezek. 36:31; Mat. 3:6; Acts 19:18; Rom. 6:12,16; 1 John 1:9-10
3. Jer. 31:30; Mat. 5:17-19; 7:21-23; 22:37-40; 28:19-20; John 3:36; 14:15; Acts 6:7; Rom 1:5; 2:8; 10:9-10; 16:19, 26; 1 Cor. 9:21; Philip. 2:9-13; Titus 2:14;

Heb. 3:18-19; 4:2-6; 5:9; 11:8; James 1:22-2:26; 1 Peter 1:2; 4:17; 1 John 2:4; 3:4
4. Psa. 49:7-8; Jer. 13:23; Rom. 3:19-28

V. **We affirm** that saving faith is a gift of God's grace that involves a number of implicit elements in one event: repentance,¹ obedience to Christ's call,² and volitional trust in Christ alone to impart new and eternal life.³

We deny that salvation occurs without the elements of recognition of need for Christ or without trust and obedience in the heart.

1. Isaiah 1:16-17; Mat. 3:8; Luke 24:46-47; Acts 2:37-38; 3:19, 26; 5:31; 11:18; 14:15; 17:30; 20:21; 26:18, 20; Rom. 2:4; 2 Cor. 7:10-11; 1 Thes. 1:9; 2 Tim. 2:25; 1 John 3:6-8; 2:1-6
2. Mat. 11:28-30; Luke 9:23; John 3:36; 5:39-40; 6:44; 7:37-38; Rom. 1:5; 1 Peter 1:2
3. John 1:12; 3:14-18, 36; 5:24, 38-47; 6:28-29, 35-40, 57-58; 7:38; 11:25; 20:31; Rom. 4:23-25; 2 Tim. 1:12

VI. **We affirm** that in sharing the gospel with others, it is perfectly biblical to confront an individual with the issue of his acknowledgment of the Lordship of Christ the Creator.¹

We deny that this method of presenting the gospel adds "meritorious works" to salvation or that yielding to the Lordship of Christ at conversion constitutes a "meritorious work."

1. (See the other articles of this paper and their attendant verses.)

VII. **We affirm** that the New Testament teaches the inextricable relationship of justification and sanctification. The New Testament perspective on "salvation" is that justification will issue forth in a life of gradual growth in sanctification as the believer responds to the Lordship which was accepted and begun at the time of salvation.¹

We deny that the progress of sanctification is uniform for all believers or that it implies perfection or the absence of intermittent sin or struggle.²

1. John 14:15; Acts 15:20; Rom. 6:6-7, 15-23; 8:12-13; 12:1-2; 13:13-14; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; 2 Cor. 6:16-7:1; Gal. 5:16-26; Eph. 4:14-5:11; Phil. 1:6; 2:12-13; Col. 3:5-4:6; 1 Thes. 4:3; 2 Thes. 2:13; 1 Tim. 6:11-12; 2 Tim. 2:19, 22; Titus 2:11-14; Heb. 5:9; 12:14; James 2:14-26; 1 Peter 1:13-23; 4:1-3; 2 Peter 1:4-11; 3:14; 1 John 1:9-2:6; 2:15-17; 3:1-10; Rev. 3:21
2. 1 John 1:9-2:6

VIII. **We affirm** that all true Christians are at various stages of their growth in the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit, without which there is no "salvation" at all in the biblical, New Testament sense.¹

We deny that the New Testament teaches two classes of Christians: (1) those who have accepted Christ as Savior but remain in a static state of immaturity or carnality (so-called "secret believers" or "carnal Christians") and (2) those who have gone on to obey Christ as Lord and thereby then become His "spiritual disciples." This distinction is an artificial expedient and false conception of the Body of Christ.

1. Rom. 6:11-18; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; Gal. 5:16-24; Heb. 12:14

IX. **We affirm** that some may accept Christ and be saved who have not consciously focused on the issue of Christ's Lordship, but who have implicitly submitted themselves to His direction and obedience to the Scriptures.

We deny that acceptance of Christ as Lord requires the formulation of any particular verbal expression.

X. **We affirm** that some who profess acceptance of Christ, without explicitly or implicitly facing the issue of Christ's Lordship, are not saved; and we affirm that these, over a period of time, will likely, by persisting in an unregenerate way of life, make this evident.¹

We deny that such a persistent life of disobedience to the Lord can, in fact, be the life of any true Christian.² We further deny that there can be a true understanding of salvation where Christ is considered Savior apart from His being Lord.

1. Mat. 7:21; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; Gal. 5:16-24; Heb. 10:26-31
2. Heb. 10:26-31; 1 John 3:1-12