

Outline of Paul's Theology

The Human Condition - we have inherited from Adam a weak human nature which tends toward sin

Sin - a "force," internal or external, tempting one to make self the ultimate authority
[the hereditary "disease," or weakness, of the flesh]
(Romans 5:12-19, I Corinthians 15:21-22)

Sins - individual acts of selfishness/self-centeredness/disobedience
[the symptoms of the "disease"]
(Romans 3:23)

Death [spiritual] - alienation from God, the natural result of sin
(Romans 6:23)

Christology - Paul's view of who Jesus Christ is

Lord - Paul's favorite term for Christ, as used by the early church as a creed, and implies:
His preexistence, and divinity (Philippians 2:6-11, Colossians 2:9, cf. John 1:1-2)
His activity in creation (Colossians 1:15-17, cf. John 1:3-5)
Jesus as mediator, and Savior (Romans 10:12-13, I Timothy 2:5-6)

Jesus Christ as second person of the Trinity
(Romans 1:1-4, I Corinthians 8:6, Ephesians 4:4-6, cf. Matthew 28:19)

The two natures of Christ: Humanity and Divinity
(Colossians 2:9, cf. Hebrews 2:17-18, John 1:1-5)

Atonement - the cross makes reconciliation with God possible

Substitution - Jesus takes our curse so we can have His blessing
(Galatians 3:13-14, I Corinthians 15:3, II Corinthians 5:21, cf. 1 John 2:1-2)

Propitiation/expiation - satisfying God's justice, so that grace may be operative
(Romans 3:21-26, II Corinthians 5:17, cf. I John 2:1-2 and 4:9-14)

Soteriology - Paul's view of salvation

Gospel - the power of salvation for those who believe it, proclaimed in the Eucharist
(Romans 1:16, I Corinthians 11:23-26, Ephesians 1:13-14)

Grace - God's initiative in offering the unearned gift of forgiveness,
Motivated by God's mercy, compassion, and love for humanity, active through
the power of the Holy Spirit, the Sacraments, and through other Christians
(Romans 5:1-2, Ephesians 2:4-9 and 3:1-7)

Faith - acceptance of the gift of grace, both belief and trust, not quality or quantity, but it is the
object of faith that matters – the only worthy object of faith is God/Christ
(Romans 5:1-17, 10:8-11, cf. John 1:12-13)

Baptism - the outward sign of faith, a public identification with the death and resurrection of Christ, and an initiation ritual of membership in the faith community
(Galatians 3:27, Ephesians 4:1-6)

Forgiveness - what is offered in the cross becomes a reality, the acquittal of the guilty
(Ephesians 1:7, Colossians 1:13-14 and 2:11-14, cf. I John 1:8-2:2)

Justification – to be made “clean” in the OT sense of holiness: acceptable for access to God
Acceptance of the believer by God, by grace through faith - not by works,
BUT – the justified believer is expected to do good works
(Romans 3:20-28, Ephesians 2:8-10, cf. Hebrews 10:19-23)

Liberation - freedom from slavery to sin and from fate/superstition
(Romans 6:5-14, 8:2, Galatians 4:7-9, Colossians 2:8, 18-23)

Reconciliation - restoration of relationship with God through Christ
(II Corinthians 5:18-20, Colossians 1:19-23)

Adoption - becoming a child of God, and a member of the family of God
(Romans 8:15-17, Galatians 3:26-29, cf. John 1:12-13)

Indwelling of the Holy Spirit - awareness of God’s presence, love and guidance,
unity with other Christians
(Romans 8:9-17, I Corinthians 6:19, cf. I John 5:7-13)

Sanctification - new creation, spiritual growth - increasing spiritual understanding and maturity
(II Corinthians 5:17, cf. I John 4:11-17)

Filled with the Spirit - allowing the Spirit within to guide one’s life, for good works,
The “fruit of the Spirit”
(Galatians 5:16-25, Ephesians 5:18, cf. I John 1:5-7 and 4:19-5:3)

Commission - the ministry of reconciliation, Christians are ambassadors of Christ
(II Corinthians 5:18-20, cf. Matthew 28:18-20)

Redemption - exemption from final judgment
(Romans 5:8-11, cf. I John 4:17-18)

Resurrection - eternal life in the Kingdom of God
(Romans 8:11, 31-39 I Corinthians 15:20-26, cf. I John 5:11-13)