

TEN COMMON THEOLOGICAL TERMS

- 1) ATONEMENT—We were enemies of God, but through the sacrificial death of Christ on the cross, we have become reconciled to Him. Our guilt is removed, and our relationship with God is restored.
 - 2) PROPITIATION—God’s anger toward our sin was poured out upon Christ on the cross. Therefore, He is no longer angry with us. His wrath toward our sin has been appeased.
 - 3) RECONCILIATION—Because of our sin we were separated from God. However, through Christ’s death on the cross, our relationship with Him has been restored. We went from enemies to beloved children and friends.
 - 4) REDEMPTION—We once were slaves to our sin. However, Jesus’s blood paid the price to set us free from sin so that we might lovingly serve Him instead.
 - 5) REGENERATION—As unbelievers, we were dead in our sins. However, through regeneration, the Holy Spirit gave us spiritual life so that we might become children of God. This marks the beginning of our life as Christians.
 - 6) REPENTANCE—When we repent, it’s more than just saying that we’re sorry for our sins. It is turning completely away from sin and completely to God. We choose to act less like the world and more like Christ.
 - 7) IMPUTATION—On the cross, Jesus took our sins upon Himself to pay the penalty that God’s law demanded. As we become Christians, His record of perfect righteousness and obedience is given to us, so that we might stand faultless before God. This is called double imputation: our sin imputed to Jesus and His righteousness imputed to us.
 - 8) JUSTIFICATION—This is a legal term that has to do with being declared righteous before God. We deserve to be convicted and punished for our sins. However, because of the atoning death of Christ, we are declared not guilty. Our sins have been removed, so that when God looks at us, He sees instead the perfect righteousness of Christ.
 - 9) SANCTIFICATION—At the time of our salvation, we are sanctified, or declared righteous and set apart as belonging to God. We must then learn to *be* righteous. So, sanctification also refers to the process through which we turn away from sin and become more like Christ, which happens progressively over time rather than all at once.
 - 10) GLORIFICATION—Although the goal of Christianity is to become more and more like Christ as we turn away more and more from sin, we can never stop sinning completely in this life. However, once we get to heaven, we will completely put off our sin nature, becoming perfectly holy and righteous, never to sin again.
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