

Misunderstood Words

7-10-16 AM

Christians believe in the Power of Words. Whether it is Jesus as the Word of God (John 1) or the words that were the power of creation (Genesis 1), we know that words have great importance. Becoming Christians we made a confessions of faith that brought us to salvation (1 Timothy 6).

One important point we understand is that the Bible goes to great length to define words for us. Sometimes it plainly defines them by statements, such as the word "Gospel" in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4, or the title "Overseer / bishop / elder" in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1. Sometimes it defines words by showing us examples, such as "Communion" (1 Corinthians 11) or "Worship" (Acts 2:42, 20:7). Finally, some words are defined by necessary inferences; words like "Godhead" (Colossians 2:9) or "Miracles" (Matthew 9:6). Yet even so, many words are misunderstood by most people, leading them to ideas that are simply not scriptural.

Grace

Many Believe:

Grace is an unconditional spotlight

The Scriptures reveal:

Grace is conditional – Heb. 4:16

We walk in Grace – 1 John 1:7

Sanctification

Many Believe:

Sanctification is being made sinless (perpetually)

The Scriptures reveal:

It is being sinless by abstaining from sin – 1 Thes. 4:3-4

It begins at baptism – 1 Cor. 6:11

Saint

Many Believe:

Saints are unique persons

The Scriptures reveal:

All who are God's – Rom. 1:7

Called to be unique – 2 Cor. 6:17-18

Fellowship

Many Believe:

Fellowship is an action Christians undertake

The Scriptures reveal:

Fellowship is a condition – 1 John 1:5-7

Fellowship is the same thing as brotherhood – Matthew 12:50

Baptism

Many Believe:

Baptism is post salvation demonstration (like communion)

The Scriptures reveal:

It is where we are saved – 1 Pet. 3:21

Baptism is being born again – John 3:4

We often have an opportunity to share the Gospel with others. We may ask them "Are you a Christian?" "Do you have faith?" "Have you been baptized?" The problem is that while they may think that the answer is yes, because they do not know the Bible definition of the word, they are not able to answer. We may understand these words, but we need to remember others do not.