

(1) What is the difference, if any at all, between “receiving” Christ and “believing” in his name, as found in John 1.12?

(2) What do you make of the long-standing approach to evangelism that encourages people to “ask Jesus into their hearts”? Is this adequate? If not, why not? How do you think you should speak to your children about the gospel and their response to Jesus?

(3) Talk about the many blessings of salvation, such as: justification, redemption, forgiveness, reconciliation, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, etc. Now consider adoption. Which of these do you cherish most, and why?

(4) What are the ways in which our spiritual adoption into God’s family differs from being born physically into our biological family? Read Galatians 3:26. We are the children of our birth parents “through” physical reproduction, but we are the “sons of God through faith.” Unpack this contrast. How does it address the widespread belief that all humans are by virtue of their being human “the children of God”?

(5) Define the “new birth”. What does it mean to be “born again”? And precisely how does this come about? By what means or by whose will and power are we born again? Back up your answer with specific biblical texts.