

(1) Many Christians continue to live in an “if/then” relationship with God. But the gospel calls on us to live in a “because/therefore” relationship. What is the difference between these two perspectives? Describe your own experience of both.

(2) Discuss the contrast Paul draws between the humiliation and exaltation of Jesus. What precisely do these terms mean?

(3) What is the difference between saying that Jesus was appointed Son of God and saying he was appointed Son of God with power?

(4) Paul attributes everything to the grace of God. Grace has been defined in various ways. How have you understood it? The definition I provided is this:

“God’s grace is his inclination, disposition, and action to freely give the most glorious and greatest possible blessing to the least deserving creatures at the greatest imaginable cost to himself.”

Discuss this definition. What are its implications for your life?

(5) Paul refers to the Roman Christians as those “who are loved by God.” Do you feel that love? Does God love everyone the same way, to the same degree? If not, why not?