

## Sovereign Grace Definitions

- I. An essential method of Bible study is defining the terms.
  1. **Neh 8:8** - So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading.
  2. Sense *n.* - III. Meaning, signification. 19. a. The meaning or signification of a word or phrase; also, any one of the different meanings of a word, or that which it bears in a particular collocation or context.
  3. When the words of scripture are read and properly defined, it causes people to understand the reading.
- II. In any conversation, it is necessary and important to define the terms that are used so that all parties are on the same page.
  1. When words are used in a conversation, the speaker and the hearer often have different definitions in their minds and therefore misunderstand each other.
  2. It is therefore important to always try to remember to define key terms, especially if you think that your hearer may not be familiar with them.
- III. This is especially important when discussing the doctrine of salvation.
- IV. The following terms are often not understood or misunderstood, which makes a meeting of the minds difficult. These definitions will hopefully help to clear things up.
  1. Sovereign grace
    - A. *Sovereign grace* is the act of God in saving His *elect* by His grace alone apart from their will or works.
    - B. *Grace* is unmerited favor and is not in anyway dependent on human faith or other works.
  2. Election, elect
    - A. *Election* is God's choosing of men to *eternal salvation*.
    - B. *Election* is not man's choosing of God for *eternal salvation*.
    - C. The *elect* are those whom God has chosen to *eternal life*.
  3. Predestination
    - A. *Predestination* is God choosing the eternal destination of heaven for His *elect* before the foundation of the world.
    - B. *Predestination* is God choosing to make one a *child of God* by adoption through Jesus Christ before the world began.
  4. Reprobation, reprobate
    - A. *Reprobation* is God choosing before the foundation of the world to reject the sinners whom He did not choose to save, *viewing them as fallen sinners*.
    - B. The *reprobate* are those sinners whom God rejected.
  5. Child of God
    - A. A *child of God* is an *elect, born again* person who has *eternal life*.
    - B. A *child of God* is a spiritual child by the new birth, not a natural child by natural birth.
    - C. A *child of God* is one of the *elect* who is *born again, quickened, regenerated*, and in possession of *eternal salvation*, but not necessarily *converted* or a *Christian*.
  6. Born again
    - A. Being *born again* is the state of a person whom God has *regenerated (quickened)*, giving him a new spirit and *eternal life*, making him a *child of God*.

- B. Being *born again* is a synonym of being a *child of God*, being *quicken*ed, and being *regenerated*.
  - C. Being *born again* is not synonymous with *conversion* or with being a *Christian*, but rather happens prior to *conversion* and becoming a *Christian*.
7. Quicken
- A. To *quicken* is to make alive spiritually.
  - B. *Quickening* is a synonym of *regeneration*, being *born again*, and being a *child of God*.
  - C. *Quickening* is not a synonym of *conversion*, but rather happens prior to *conversion*.
8. Regeneration, regenerate
- A. *Regeneration* is the act of God whereby He creates a new spirit in one of the *elect*, giving them *eternal life*.
  - B. *Regeneration* is a synonym of *quicken*ing, being *born again*, and being a *child of God*.
  - C. *Regeneration* is not a synonym of *conversion*, but rather happens prior to *conversion*.
9. Eternal salvation
- A. *Eternal salvation* is when God saves one of the *elect* from their sins by Christ dying for his sins and gives him *eternal life* through *regeneration*.
  - B. *Eternal salvation* is not dependent on anything that the *elect* do, including their faith or other works, but only on the *sovereign grace* of God.
  - C. *Eternal salvation* is *eternal* by definition, which means that it lasts forever and cannot be lost.
10. Eternal life
- A. *Eternal life* is the state which the *elect* are in once they are *regenerated* (*quicken*ed, *born again*) when God put a new spirit within them which can never die or sin.
  - B. *Eternal life* is the result of *eternal salvation*.
  - C. *Eternal life* is *eternal* by definition, which means that it lasts forever and cannot be lost.
11. Conversion
- A. *Conversion* is the *process* that a *child of God* goes through when he hears the gospel, repents of his sins, is baptized, and turns the direction of his life from living in sin to keeping God's commandments.
  - B. *Conversion* can only happen after a person has been *born again* (*quicken*ed, *regenerated*).
  - C. *Conversion* is not a synonym of being *born again*, or being *regenerated* or *quicken*ed.
  - D. *Conversion* is an *ongoing process* in the life of a *child of God*, whereas *regeneration* is the *instantaneous act* of God in giving a person *eternal life*.
  - E. *Conversion* is dependent on the faith and works of a *child of God*, whereas *regeneration* is by the *sovereign grace* of God alone.
12. Temporal salvation
- A. *Temporal salvation* is salvation that can be experienced by a *child of God* in time and in this life, as opposed to *eternal salvation* which lasts eternally and carries on into the next life.

- B. *Temporal salvation* is deliverance from things such as ignorance of the gospel, trying to save yourself eternally, fear of death, chastisement for sin in this life, deception and bondage, and an untoward and wicked generation.
- C. *Temporal salvation* is salvation to knowledge and assurance of eternal life, fellowship with God and believers of like-faith, joy, rest, and victorious living.
- D. *Temporal salvation* is dependent on the faith and works of a *child of God*, whereas *eternal salvation* is dependent on God's *sovereign grace* alone.

13. Christian

- A. A *Christian* is an *elect*, *regenerated*, *born again*, *quicken*ed *child of God* who has been *converted*, having become a disciple of Jesus Christ by believing the gospel, repenting of his sins, being baptized, and being added to the membership of a local church.
- B. A *Christian* is not *merely* one of the *elect*.
- C. A *Christian* is not *merely* a *child of God*.
- D. A *Christian* is not *merely* someone who has *eternal life* and *eternal salvation*.
- E. A *Christian* is not *merely* someone who has believed the gospel.
- F. A *Christian* is a person who is all of the above and who has also obeyed the gospel, been baptized, added to the local church, and continues to worship Jesus Christ in His church and obey Him all the days of his life.