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Theology

To be evangelical means you believe in the triune God and believe the Bible is God's inspired Word. That leaves a lot of room for discussion on most issues, so it is important to understand the theological conclusions of each teacher. I have written dozens of pages of basic theology summaries, which are on my website.

1. I believe in the triune God of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I believe they are each individuals, yet united in one Godhead. I believe their unity is absolute and that they each are eternal and share the divine characteristics.
2. I believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God, inerrant in its original copies, incredibly accurate in our Greek and Hebrew texts today. I believe the Bible thus is authoritative and that it is sufficient revelation for knowing God, knowing the way of salvation, and knowing the way of life as a believer.
3. I believe we are born tainted because of the corruption to Adam and Eve's nature, and that we all choose to sin. I believe one penalty for this is eternal spiritual death, or separation from God. I believe there is nothing people can do to purify or save themselves.
4. I believe the entire Bible teaches salvation only by the grace of God, with the only requirement [which God empowers] being to believe in God's promise of deliverance. As God's promise was progressively revealed in scripture throughout time, there was more to believe, and today we know that Jesus was the promised deliverer, the Messiah or Christ, that he is the Son of God who came to Earth and was born of a woman, thus being both divine and human, that he lived a perfect life to be worthy of his sacrifice on the cross, by which sacrifice he took the punishment for our sins, allowing believers in this promise to be reconciled with God, forgiven of their sins, and given eternal life.
5. I believe you cannot lose your salvation. I have at least ten conclusive scriptural reasons for this belief.
6. I believe God desires for every believer to grow spiritually [be progressively sanctified] to become more like Christ, the perfect image of God the Father, to become more like God designed that believer to be. I believe the New Testament reveals specific ways each believer can cooperate in this process to ensure that this work of grace by the Holy Spirit is constant and deep.
7. I believe that every believer faces three challenges to his walk with Christ: the flesh, cultural influences, and demonic activity. I believe that as the believer experiences progressive sanctification, these challenges become ever more mitigated, allowing the believer to live more in freedom and victory.
8. I believe that man and woman are equal before God but have different roles in God's kingdom, just as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are equal with each other but have different roles. This is a sensitive issue, about which I continue to study.
9. I believe the Bible gives some direction as to church governance, ministry methodology, and worship, but stresses purity of heart and right motives and priorities, while leaving flexible how diverse groups will apply that direction.

At seminary, I took twelve theology classes. I continue to read theologians from diverse backgrounds, but use those texts primarily as a way of challenging my own conclusions derived from scripture.