

(1) Talk about Luther's struggle as a Roman Catholic monk. Have you ever felt as he did, that no matter how hard one tries, no matter how many "good works" someone performs, that one's soul remains in turmoil and fear that nothing could ever be enough to satisfy the righteous demands of an infinitely holy God? Has anyone's conversion experience in your group been similar to Luther's?

(2) What is the Roman Catholic doctrine of purgatory? Do you find any evidence in Scripture for it? Why do you believe that when a Christian dies he/she passes immediately into the presence of Christ in heaven and does not need additional "purification" from sin?

(3) What is your reaction to the Roman Catholic doctrine of indulgences? Why do you stand opposed to this? Was Luther justified in his reaction to the sale of indulgences in the 16th century?

(4) What do we mean when we say we believe in "sola Scriptura" or "by Scripture alone"? Does this mean we never consult authorities or sources other than the Bible? If not, what does it mean? Luther said it is never right to bind your conscience to any authority above the Bible. Do you agree? Why?

(5) What do we mean by "sola fide" or "by faith alone"? If we are saved by faith alone, what is role or purpose of good works in the Christian life?

(6) What is your understanding of the "presence" of Christ in the elements of the Lord's Supper? Is it a physical or spiritual presence? Or is there another, better way of describing what happens when we receive the elements in faith?