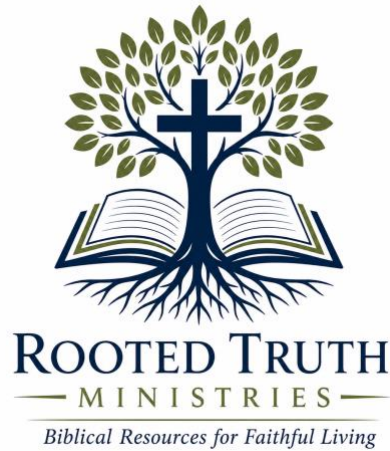




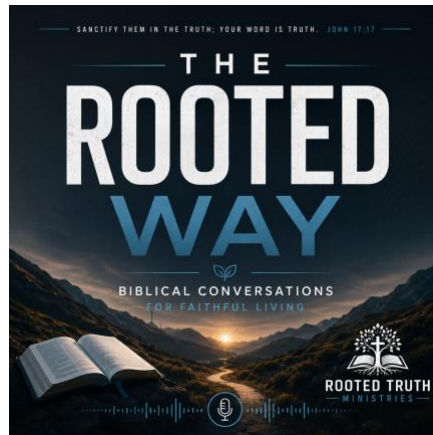
THE ROOTED WAY • EPISODE 6

Christian Jargon & Tenets of Faith

“Language can either be a bridge or a barrier.”

EPISODE STUDY & SHOW NOTES

Designed for listening, personal study, small-group discussion, and use inside Rooted Word.



Episode Overview

Key question: Do the words Christians use help people understand biblical truth, or sometimes make Christianity sound like an insider language?

Big idea: Some Christian phrases are harmless shorthand; others describe doctrines so important that they need precise definitions. The goal is not to dumb down Christianity, but to make sure people actually understand what Christians mean.

Primary passage: Nehemiah 8:8

Supporting passages: Acts 17:11; Ephesians 2:1-10; Romans 3:23-28; John 3:3-8; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; Matthew 28:18-20; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Matthew 28:19

WHY THIS MATTERS

Clear language serves discipleship and evangelism.

If Christians constantly use familiar words without defining them, they can unintentionally create an insider club. Precise theological words are worth keeping when they help us explain biblical truth accurately.

1. Read

Read Nehemiah 8:8. The episode uses this as a model for clear teaching: God's Word was read and its sense was given so the people understood.

Ask

- When does Christian vocabulary help us say something precisely?
- When can familiar church language become a barrier?
- What words do you use that a new believer might not understand?

2. Christianese: Helpful Shorthand or Empty Habit?

“Doing Life Together”

Usually means Christian community. The episode points to Acts 2, Romans 12, Galatians 6, and Hebrews 10 to show that biblical community is deeper than socializing: believers learn Scripture, pray, worship, share, and bear burdens together.

“Guard Your Heart”

Proverbs 4:23 is broader than avoiding romantic hurt. The biblical heart includes desires, thoughts, affections, loyalties, and will. Guarding it means paying attention to what shapes and rules us from within.

“I'm in a Season...”

The phrase can be harmless shorthand for a period of life, but the notes caution against turning every inconvenience into a spiritually designated “season.”

“Being Intentional” / “Love On Somebody” / “Let's Unpack That”

These can be useful ways to say purposeful living, concrete love, or careful examination - but the phrase should not replace the biblical idea itself.

3. Words That Need Careful Definition

Conviction

The episode distinguishes biblical conviction from mere discomfort. Conviction is awareness of actual sin and guilt before God that should move us toward confession and repentance.

Brokenness

The word can refer either to the damage sin has produced in the world and human life or to humility and contrition before God. Those ideas should not automatically be treated as identical.

Spiritual Warfare

Spiritual warfare is real, but the source resists treating every inconvenience as direct demonic attack. Ephesians 6 emphasizes truth, righteousness, the gospel, faith, salvation, Scripture, and prayer.

“God Laid It on My Heart”

The notes urge caution about equating personal impressions with God's authoritative speech in Scripture. Impressions and providential circumstances should be tested biblically.

Fellowship

The Greek term *koinonia* carries ideas of sharing, participation, and partnership. Christian fellowship is shared life in Christ, not merely eating together in a fellowship hall.

4. Words Worth Knowing: Salvation

The episode moves from casual Christianese to theological terms that Christians should keep because they allow us to speak precisely.

Dead in Sin

Ephesians 2 and Romans 8 describe humanity's condition before salvation as spiritual death, not merely confusion or slight injury.

Regeneration

God gives spiritual life to the spiritually dead - the new birth described in John 3 and Titus 3.

Repentance and Faith

Repentance is turning from sin and self-rule; faith is turning toward Christ and resting in Him. The notes present both as responses produced by God's grace, not works that earn salvation.

Justification

God's once-for-all judicial declaration that the believing sinner is righteous in His sight because of Christ.

Adoption

God does not merely pardon believers; He brings them into His family so they approach Him as Father.

Sanctification

The lifelong work of God by which believers increasingly become like Christ. The episode emphasizes: justification changes our standing; sanctification changes our lives.

Perseverance and Glorification

God preserves those He saves, and salvation will be completed when believers are raised, transformed, freed from sin, and forever with Christ.

5. The Gospel and the Cross

Gospel

The Greek euangelion means good news. The gospel is primarily an announcement of what God has accomplished in Christ - His incarnation, righteous life, substitutionary death, resurrection, reign, and promised return.

Atonement

Christ's work of dealing with sin and guilt through His sacrificial death so sinners can be reconciled to God.

Propitiation

The notes describe propitiation as Christ's sacrifice satisfying God's righteous judgment against sin, while stressing that the Father Himself lovingly sent the Son.

Redemption

Rescue through the payment of a price. The source connects redemption with freedom from slavery or captivity and the blood of Christ.

Grace and Mercy

A helpful distinction in the notes: mercy is God not giving the judgment we deserve; grace is God giving favor and blessing we could never deserve.

Faith

Saving faith is more than knowing correct information. It means trusting, receiving, and resting in Christ Himself.

6. Practices and Foundations

Covenant

A solemn, binding relationship established through promises and commitments - more than a simple contract.

Confession

Agreeing with God's verdict about our sin rather than excusing, hiding, or renaming it.

Discipleship

Learning to follow Jesus and helping others learn to follow Him.

Passover and Pentecost

The episode places both in their biblical-historical settings. Passover remembers Israel's deliverance and points to Christ our Passover. Pentecost was already the Feast of Weeks; Acts 2 presents the Spirit's outpouring and a remarkable gospel harvest during that feast.

Baptism and the Lord's Supper

From a Baptist perspective, these are the two ordinances Christ gave His church. Baptism publicly identifies the believer with Christ; the Lord's Supper remembers and proclaims His death, expresses unity, and looks toward His return.

7. Doctrines Christians Debate

The Trinity

One God eternally exists as three distinct Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Each Person is fully God, yet there is only one God. The episode rejects both polytheism and modalism.

The Five Solas

- Sola Scriptura - Scripture Alone.
- Sola Gratia - Grace Alone.
- Sola Fide - Faith Alone.
- Solus Christus - Christ Alone.
- Soli Deo Gloria - Glory to God Alone.

Calvinism and Arminianism

The notes aim to define both fairly rather than caricature them. Calvinism emphasizes God's sovereign initiative in salvation and monergistic regeneration. Classical Arminianism also affirms human sinfulness and dependence on grace but generally describes grace as enabling a genuinely resistible human response.

Eschatology

Christians agree on essentials - Christ will return, the dead will be raised, God will judge, evil will be defeated, and God's people will dwell with Him forever - while disagreeing over how the events fit together.

A USEFUL REMINDER

Everybody in the debate has the same Bible verses.

The disagreement is about how those verses fit together. Define positions fairly before arguing about them.

8. Things Christians Say That Aren't Bible Verses

“God helps those who help themselves.”

Not a Bible verse. The gospel announces that God saves people who cannot save themselves.

“God won't give you more than you can handle.”

The notes point out that 1 Corinthians 10:13 concerns temptation, while 2 Corinthians 1:8 describes suffering beyond human strength.

“Everything happens for a reason.”

The phrase may gesture toward providence, but Romans 8:28 says something richer: God works all things together for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purpose.

“Let go and let God.”

Sometimes useful sentiment, but not a complete summary of sanctification. Scripture calls believers to strive, pursue, fight, put off, put on, and obey while depending on God's power.

“Follow your heart.”

The source contrasts this with Jeremiah 17:9. Biblical Christianity calls for desires to be transformed by Christ, not automatically followed.

9. Apply

Pay attention this week when you talk about faith with a neighbor, new Christian, child, church visitor, or someone you are discipling.

THIS WEEK

Ask one question before using insider language.

“Would this person actually understand the words I'm using?” If not, do not abandon the truth - explain it.

Reflection

- Which Christian phrases do you use without thinking?
- Which theological words are worth teaching rather than replacing?
- Where have you heard a Christian phrase used in a way that obscures the biblical idea?
- Can you explain justification, sanctification, the gospel, and the Trinity in clear language without losing precision?

10. Pray

Ask God to help you speak clearly, handle Scripture faithfully, avoid careless claims of divine authority, and explain the gospel and Christian doctrine in ways that are both precise and understandable.

CLOSING TAKEAWAY

Do not throw away precision - teach it clearly.

Some Christian jargon probably deserves to disappear. But words like justification, sanctification, propitiation, regeneration, Trinity, and sovereignty exist because Christians needed precise ways to describe enormous biblical truths.

Listen & Continue

Podcast: The Rooted Way - Christian Jargon & Tenets of Faith

Episode resources: rootedtruthministries.org/podcasts

Study collection: The Rooted Way Studies in Rooted Word

Rooted in Scripture. Growing in truth. Living faithfully.