

Essential Truths of the Christian Faith
Chapters 50-55

- i. How were you encouraged by these six chapters? How were you challenged?
- ii. How would you briefly explain sin to someone who is not a Christian (in light of these chapters)?
- iii. From chapter 50, what is the difference between the sin of omission and the sin of commission?
- iv. As Sproul states in chapter 51, it is common to hear others say that “people are basically good.” How did his explanation of original sin in chapter 51 help your understanding of original sin? How would you answer someone who made the claim that “people are basically good”?
- v. From chapter 52 – read Romans 3:10-12. How does this passage inform our understanding of total depravity as it is explained by Sproul (we are all depraved or corrupt in the totality of our being)?
- vi. From chapter 53. On page 157, Sproul says: “People have a moral responsibility to follow their conscience. It is sinful to act against one’s conscience.” Things that God has laid on our conscience are between us and God. In Romans 14, Paul expands on this truth.
 - a) Are there things that God has laid on your conscience that are not evil but he has made clear you should (or should not) do?

- vii. From chapter 54. People often talk about the “unforgivable sin.”
- a) How does chapter 54 inform and help explain the unforgivable sin?
 - b) On page 160, Sproul says: “When earnest Christians are fearful that perhaps they have actually committed this sin, it is probably an indication that they haven’t. Those who do commit such a sin would be so hardened of heart and abandoned in their sin as to feel no remorse for it.” How does this encourage you ?
- viii. From chapter 55. Sproul says in his summary: “Syncretism is the blending or mixing of alien religions or philosophies into one.”
- a) Where and how have you seen this taken place in the church today? What are ways we blend and mis other religions and philosophies into the Christian faith?