

Views of Salvation

Theological System	Proponents	Meaning of Salvation	Obstacle to Salvation	Means of Salvation
Liberation Theology	Gustavo Gutierrez; many Latin American Roman Catholic priest; represented through Black Theology, Feminist Theology, and Third World Theology	Deliverance from oppression	The oppression and exploitation of the powerless classes by the powerful	Politics and revolution
Existential Theology	Rudolph Bultmann Martin Heidegger	A fundamental altering of our existence, our outlook on and conduct of life. Obtaining "authentic existence" or being called by God (or the gospel) to one's true self and true destiny.	Man is imprisoned by his ego rationality and past identity-forming experiences. He is living an inauthentic existence.	Man must put to death his striving for self-gratification and security apart from God, place faith in God and be open to the future. Faith is abandoning the quest for tangible realities and transitory objects.
Secular Theology	Dietrich Bonhoeffer John A.T. Robinson Thomas J. Altizer	Salvation is moving away from religion and learning to be independent of God, coming of age, affirming oneself and getting involved in the world.	Reliance on God and religion makes man immature and lends itself to intellectual dishonesty and moral irresponsibility.	Abandoning religion and the need for God and becoming self-sufficient and fully human. This is accomplished through introspection, affirmation, and practice of scientific (e.g., antiscapernatural) inquiry.
Roman Catholic Theology (traditional)		Receiving grace from God through the church	Unconfessed mortal sins.	Receiving grace through participation in the sacraments of the Church.
Roman Catholic Theology (modern)	Second Vatican Council Karl Rahner Yves Congar Hans Küng	Receiving grace either through nature or the church.		Receiving grace through either nature or the sacraments of the Church.
Evangelical Theology	Martin Luther Jonathan Edwards John Calvin	Salvation is the change of position before God, from guilty to innocent.	Sin breaks relationship with God. Man's nature is spoiled and inclines toward evil.	Being justified by faith in the finished work of Christ and receiving the Holy Spirit of God in regeneration, indwelling and sealing unto the day of redemption.

NOTE: Much of the above chart is modified from Charts of Christian Theology and Doctrine, page 92, by H. Wayne House, Zondervan

