**The Christian Acropolis: The Cross as the Place Where Justice and**

**Love Kiss (Romans 3:21-26)**

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. In your own words, explain why Proverbs 17:15 can be called *the great dilemma*. Why is it insufficient to say that since God is loving, he can simply excuse sin? Prior to today, how would you have explained: The character of God? The nature of sin? What Jesus did by dying on the cross? What informed your thinking (i.e. books, songs, media, etc.)?
2. How would you explain the role of the Law in the Old Testament? How were people saved in the Old Testament? How can Paul say (Rom. 3:21-22) that “the Law and the Prophets bear witness” to Jesus Christ? How should Jesus’ words in Luke 24:44 shape our thinking in this regard? In your own words, explain why the Law cannot save sinful men.
3. In light of Paul’s teaching on sin in chapter 1-3, what do you think he means when he says that we all “fall short of the glory of God”? Why is God’s glory so important? Romans 3:23-25 contains some very important words, define the following: justified, grace, gift, redemption, propitiation, and faith (offer at least one supporting Scripture verse for each). Why was the doctrine of justification by faith such a big deal during the Reformation? Why is still a crucial issue?
4. In what way(s) does the cross of Christ justify or vindicate God? Why did Jesus suffer a public execution? What does Colossians 2:13-15 say about the sacrificial death of Christ? What does it mean to place one’s faith in Jesus Christ? In light of the glorious nature of Christ’s substitutionary death on the cross for sinners, why would Paul refer to it as a “stumbling block” (1 Cor. 1:23)?