

## The Importance of Doctrine

### 1. Myths about doctrine:

- Myth One: Doctrine divides.

Answer. In one sense this is true. Doctrine divides the truth from the false, and the frivolous from the sincere.

- Myth Two: Doctrine is not important.

Answer. Doctrine is vital to faith. Without doctrine there would be no Christian church for there would be no teaching about the virgin birth, the death of Christ, the atonement, the resurrection, the second coming, etc.

- Myth Three: Love is more important than doctrine.

Answer. The most loving act in the entire world is to set forth the doctrines of grace: TULIP.

- Myth Four: It does not matter what one believes as long as they are sincere in their religion.

Answer. Sincerity is not enough. A person can be sincerely wrong with deadly effects. People die when wrong medicine is prescribed or administered. No matter how sincere a person may be in their religion Christ is the Way, the Truth and the Life and no one will ever come to the Father except by Him.

- Myth Five: Doctrine is boring and difficult to learn.

Answer. Doctrine is not meant to be either boring or difficult. It does require effort to learn and remember, but then, anything in life worth while also takes time to learn.

- Myth Six: Doctrine is not practical.

Answer. All doctrine is meant to be practical and all practice should be doctrinal. How one lives out the ethics of the Christian life will be based on doctrinal considerations. Legal considerations, marital questions, ethical questions about the right to life and a thousand other everyday practices reminds us that a doctrinal foundation is needed.

### 2. The importance of doctrine in the life of the believer is manifested in the amount of attention given to this topic.

3. Prior to his death, Moses communicated a summary of doctrinal teaching to Israel.
  - *Deut 32:2 My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distill as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass:*
4. In the presence of his friends who had come to comfort him, Job maintained his doctrinal integrity.
  - *Job 11:4 For thou hast said, My doctrine is pure, and I am clean in thine eyes.*
5. The author of Proverbs declared that he was able to give the young good to live by.
  - *Prov 4:2 For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law.*
6. The prophet Isaiah lamented that the people of his generation could not understand doctrine.
  - *Isa 28:9 Whom shall he teach knowledge? And whom shall he make to understand doctrine? Them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts.*
7. In matchless grace, God can cause the most sinful of souls to learn doctrine.
  - *Isa 29:24 They also that erred in spirit shall come to understanding, and they that murmured shall learn doctrine.*
8. In contrast to good doctrine there is the doctrine of the heathen.
  - *Jer 10:8 But they are altogether brutish and foolish: the stock is a doctrine of vanities.*
9. When Jesus taught, the people were always amazed at what He had to say.
  - *Matt 7:28 And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: The people were amazed at the simple wisdom of Christ and also in the manner in which He spoke for He spoke with authority and not as the scribes.*
  - *Mark 1:22 And they were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes.*
10. The Lord warned His disciples about the false doctrine of the Pharisees, which can be summarized as legalism, or a system of salvation by good works apart from grace.
  - *Matt 16:12 Then understood they how that he bade them not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.*
11. The ability of Christ to use doctrinal teaching to silence his critics was also impressive.

- *Matt 22:33 And when the multitude heard this, they were astonished at his doctrine.*
12. Through knowledge of doctrine and the expression of His own divine essence, Jesus was able to cast out demons.
- *Mark 1:27 And they were all amazed, insomuch that they questioned among themselves, saying, What thing is this? What new doctrine is this? for with authority commandeth he even the unclean spirits, and they do obey him.*
13. Doctrine refers to the act of teaching and the content of the same.
- *Mark 4:2 And he taught them many things by parables, and said unto them in his doctrine,*
14. Some people are afraid and become angry with true doctrine. When false doctrine is proven to be such, then a whole theology and way of life is threatened. Pride and selfish interests will move men to destroy the truth and the bearers of the same.
- *Mark 11:18 And the scribes and chief priests heard it, and sought how they might destroy him: for they feared him, because all the people was astonished at his doctrine.*
15. The communication of doctrinal truth exposes religious error and shallowness. It condemns and cleanses.
- *Mark 12:38 And he said unto them in his doctrine, Beware of the scribes, which love to go in long clothing, and love salutations in the marketplaces,*
16. Spiritual power is associated with doctrinal truth.
- *Luke 4:32 And they were astonished at his doctrine: for his word was with power.*
- One of the reasons for the weakened state of the modern Church is the prevalence of Arminian theology and the exaltation of man through Self-Esteem theology. In this way, the creator is worshipped more than the Creator.
17. The ultimate origin of all true doctrine is traced to God the Father.
- *John 7:16 Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me.*
18. Those who think that biblical doctrine is difficult to discern need not despair. The Lord has promised that those who long to know truth shall know it if there is a sincere desire to do the will of the Father.
- *John 7:17 If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.*

For those who struggle with besetting sin, there is a question to ask: “*Do you really want to do the will of the Father?*” God is not interested in revealing His secrets to souls who are merely curious and plan to exert their own wills independently of Him. The Father wants those who will worship and obey Him with a willing heart.

19. It is instructive that after the Lord was arrested, when He was brought before the High Priest for interrogation, the focus of attention was upon the doctrine Christ taught.

- *John 18:19 The high priest then asked Jesus of his disciples, and of his doctrine.*

20. The church is responsible for continuing in the doctrine that the apostle’s taught.

- *Acts 2:42 And they continued steadfast in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.*

21. Persecution has always followed those who preach the doctrines of the grace of God.

- *Acts 5:28 Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us.*

22. Miracles are associated with the doctrine of the Lord reflected in the blinding of Elymas.

- *Acts 13:12 Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, believed, being astonished at the doctrine of the Lord.*

23. The doctrine of a Savior dying for sinners and then rising again is a new doctrine to many.

- *Acts 17:19 And they took him, and brought him unto Areopagus, saying, May we know what this new doctrine, whereof thou speakest, is?*

24. Through doctrine men may know the gospel of redeeming grace and the path to sanctification.

- *Rom 6:17 But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.*

25. Doctrine is more profitable than emotional ecstatic utterances such as speaking in tongues.

- *1 Cor 14:6 Now, brethren, if I come unto you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you, except I shall speak to you either by revelation, or by knowledge, or by prophesying, or by doctrine?*

26. When the early church met, those who had a doctrinal message to share were allowed to communicate it to the group.
- *1 Cor 14:26 How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.*
27. Doctrinal instability displeases the Lord.
- *Eph 4:14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;*
28. Once doctrinal truth is learned, it is not to be changed. The church has no other doctrine to communicate than the gospel of God's sovereign grace.
- *1 Tim 1:3 As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine,*
29. Doctrinal purity is designed to lead to moral purity. A sensual lifestyle is contrary to sound doctrine.
- *1 Tim 1:10 For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine;*
30. The good minister is the one who reminds the people of the doctrines of grace.
- *1 Tim 4:6 If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.*
31. Every minister in particular and every Christian in general is to give themselves to the study of doctrine.
- *1 Tim 4:13 Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.*
32. Salvation involves not only a knowing of the truth but a continuation of the same. The strong word of exhortation comes,
- *1 Tim 4:16 Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.*
33. Those in the church who give themselves to the labor of teaching doctrine are worthy of double honor: respect and remuneration.

- *1 Tim 5:17 Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially they who labor in the word and doctrine. Respect and remuneration are only right for good reason. If a person can tell others how to live forever and how to live well in time, such services are priceless.*
34. Doctrine teaches Christians to be humble, to work hard, and to be submissive in order to bring honor to the name of the Lord.
- *1 Tim 6:1 Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honor, that the name of God and his doctrine be not blasphemed.*
35. Any doctrinal teaching that leads to a life of immorality is not godly teaching.
- *1 Tim 6:3 If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness;*
36. Doctrine is designed to be known. Doctrine is not something that is for the elite of Christendom.
- *2 Tim 3:10 But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, long-suffering, charity, patience,*
37. The scriptures are given by God in order to learn doctrine.
- *2 Tim 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:*
38. The ground of gospel ministry and pastor care is doctrine.
- *2 Tim 4:2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine.*
39. The Bible warns that many will not endure sound doctrine.
- *2 Tim 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;*
40. Doctrine is the only force that will ultimately convict and convince the ungodly.
- *Titus 1:9 Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.*
41. The Christian is to communicate those things which can be firmly establish. Opinions and insights are interesting but the church needs and wants to hear sound teaching.
- *Titus 2:1 But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:*

42. Three things are to characterize the communication of doctrine: purity, gravity, and sincerity.

- *Titus 2:7 In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity,*

43. The doctrine of God our Savior is to be accompanied by holiness of life and moral conviction of the truth.

- *Titus 2:10 Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.*

44. The doctrines concerning Christ are foundational to the faith.

- *Heb 6:1 Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,*

45. One particular doctrine of interest is the doctrine of baptisms [notice the plural] mentioned in Hebrews 6:2.

- *Heb 6:2 Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.*

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| ➤ The baptism of John            | Matt 3:6-8                               |
| ➤ The baptism of Jesus           | Mark 1:9                                 |
| ➤ The baptism of fire            | Matt 3:11                                |
| ➤ The baptism of the Holy Spirit | Matt 3:11; Acts 1:5; 11:16; 1 Cor. 12:13 |
| ➤ The baptism of Moses           | 1 Cor 10:2                               |
| ➤ The baptism of the Cross       | Matt 20:22                               |
| ➤ The baptism of the believer    | Rom 6:3; Gal 3:27                        |

46. One of the strongest signs of salvation is to abide in the doctrine of Christ.

- *2 John 1:9 Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.*

47. God has a controversy with all who embrace a false doctrine such as the doctrine of Balaam who was greedy for money in the work of the ministry.

- *Rev 2:14 But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.*

48. God hates particular doctrines, which are false. The Nicolaitans, disciples of Nicolas an early deacon, (cp. Act 6:5) followed Balaam who practiced immorality and taught the Israelites to sin by worshipping idols. (cp. Num. 25:1-2) The doctrine of Nicolas was that of moral indiscretion.

- *Rev 2:15 So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.*

49. Faithfulness to sound doctrine brings the blessings of God.

- *Rev 2:24 But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden.*