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What About Doctrine?

In an examination at a Christian school, the teacher asked the following question: "What is false doctrine?" Up went a little boy's hand, and there came this answer: "It's when the doctor gives the wrong stuff to people who are sick." Although the little boy had obviously confused *doctrine* with *doctorin'*, he arrived at the correct definition.

How true this is regarding so much false doctrine being taught in the church today!

1. The common response by those teaching things that are contrary to the Scriptures is that they don't want to fight over doctrine, but simply love one another.
2. They profess that this is what Jesus did, ignoring that Jesus called every person to confess and repent from their sins, to deny themselves, pick up their cross and follow Him in a godly life.
3. Their philosophy of ministry is one of cultural Political Correctness, having a liberal view Scripture!

So we want to answer the question, what about doctrine in five ways?

- I. The explanation of doctrine.
- II. The need for doctrine.
- III. The authority of the Scriptures for doctrine.
- IV. The believer's duty regarding doctrine.
- V. The way a to determines what is doctrine?

I. The explanation of doctrine.

A. The distinction made about doctrine.

1. There are two basic words used in the Greek New Testament for doctrine as we will see.
 - a. But there are also various forms of these two words in the New Testament.
 - b. The apostle Paul in writing to Timothy and Titus distinguishes good from bad doctrine by the word sound or healthy "hugiaino", we get the word "hygiene".
 - c. The word appears twelve times in the New Testament, all are found in the Pastoral Epistles except four. 1Tim. 1:10; 6:3; 2Tim. 1:13; 4:3; Tit. 1:9, 13; 2:1, 2
 - d. The reason was false teachers at Ephesus were teaching other doctrines "heterodidaskaleo", that deviated from the truth of God's Word.
 - 1) Paul commanded Timothy to charge some to teach no other doctrine "heterodidaskaleo." 1Tim. 1:3
 - 2) Paul said if anyone did not consent to wholesome "hugiaino", words of Jesus and the doctrine according to godliness, he was to withdraw himself from them. 1Tim. 5:3
2. One word that is translated "doctrine", appears twenty-one times "didaskalia", and means instruction or teaching.

- a. Twice it is found in the gospels. Matt. 15:9; Mk. 7:7
 - b. Twice in Romans. Rom. 12:7; 15:4
 - c. Once in Ephesians. Eph. 4:14
 - d. Once in Colossians. Col. 2:22
 - e. Eight times in the First Timothy. 1Tim. 1:10; 4:1, 6, 13, 16; 5:17; 6:1, 3
 - f. Three time in the Second Timothy. 2Tim. 3:10, 16; 4:3
 - g. Four times in Titus. Tit. 1:9; 2:1, 7, 10
 - 1) Of the twenty-one times it appears, fifteen appear in the Pastoral Epistles and deal with church order and responsibility for the Pastor.
 - 2) The most prominent appearance is in First Timothy, written to stand against different unsound doctrines being taught and Timothy was to instruct the brethren of the good sound doctrine. 1Tim. 1:3, 10
3. The second word for “doctrine”, appears thirty-one times “didakee”, meaning the act of teaching or the content of what is taught.
- a. It appears regarding that “the people were astonished at His teaching.” Matt. 7:28; 22:33
 - b. It identifies the apostle’s doctrine in which the church continued in and filled Jerusalem with. Acts 2:42; 5:28
 - c. It describes the false doctrines taught by Balaam, the Nicolaitans. Rev. 2:14-15

- B.** The source of doctrine is always based on what is found in the Scriptures and taught, God’s revelation of truth about God, man, sin, etc.
1. Doctrine must be distinguished from dogma, that is man’s statement of a truth as set forth in a creed, not necessarily being Biblical.
 - a. The Greek word dogma “dokein”, means to think, seem or seem good”.
 - b. A good example of “dogma” is the teaching of the Catholic church, that Peter was the first Pope.
 2. So doctrine is the revelation of God’s instruction and teachings to man about the things of God and man that can be found systematically throughout the Scripture.
 4. Why do we need doctrine, some say, “Let’s just love one another!” But love apart from doctrine will degenerate into carnality, self-centeredness and perversion for two reasons.
 - a. Because there is no knowledge of God or the things of God apart from the Word of God.
 - b. Because human passion which is self-centered and self-serving will always triumph where there is no godly fear. Prov. 1:7; 9:10
 5. The record of the early church tells us that they understood the importance of doctrine.
 - a. “They continued steadfastly in the apostle’s doctrine.” Acts 2:42

- b. They gave an answers to every man.
1Pet. 3:15

Illustration

A Peanuts cartoon pictured Lucy and Linus looking out the window at a steady downpour of rain. “Boy,” said Lucy, “Look at it rain. What if floods the whole world?”

“It will never do that,” Linus replied confidently. “In the ninth chapter of Genesis, God promised Noah that would never happen again, and the sign of the promise is the rainbow.”

“You’ve taken a great load off my mind,” said Lucy with a relieved smile.

“Sound theology,” pontificated Linus, “has a way of doing that!” Green:113

Application

1. Foot washing if not a Biblical doctrine, though one can certainly do it.

* But Jesus did it to His disciples to teach them to be the servants of all!

2. Some teach that the Bible teaches that all must speak in tongues as the evidence of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, this is a wrong and unscriptural doctrine.

* Paul clearly tells us that not all speak with tongues.
1Cor. 12:30

3. Others teach a person has to be water baptized to be saved, but it is not sound doctrine, though we believe baptism should be practiced.

* We are complete in Christ, water does not put away sin, but is an answer to a good conscience. Col. 2:9-10; 1Pet. 3:21

4. The practice of being slain in the Spirit, is not a Scriptural doctrine, but a show of carnality.

* Paul was not “slain in the spirit” on the Damascus road, but he fell to the ground and not one had to catch him. The only ones who could come close to this doctrine would be Ananias and Sapphira and they never got up again. Acts 5

5. The doctrine of casting out demons from Christians, sometimes called “Deliverance ministries” is unbiblical, every example in Scripture reveals possessed people to be unbelievers.

* Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world. 1Jn. 4:4

Do you know how to define doctrine?

II. The need for doctrine.

A. That God’s authority be established, not man’s.

1. Jesus said, “And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.” Matt. 15:9

2. Matthew describes Jesus as distinct from the religious leaders saying, “For He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.” Matt. 7:29

* He often declared, “You have heard but I say to you”!

3. Man's bent is to think more highly of himself than he ought, revealing that he knows nothing the way he ought. 1Cor. 8:2
- B.** That the word of God may have free course to refine the believer.
1. The word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Heb. 4:12
 - a. Man's soul refers to his intellect, emotions, desires and will.
 - b. Man's spirit refers to the real person that is spiritually dead and prone to sin nature, till they are born again, yet sin nature remains present but not in power over the person of the Holy Spirit's residence.
 - c. Man's body refers to the physical body.
 2. Paul prayed for the Philippians, that their whole spirit, soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 1Thess. 5:23
 - a. To the Philippians Paul says, "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus." Phil. 2:5
 - b. To the Ephesians he says, "Be renewed in the spirit of your mind." Eph. 4:23
 - c. To the Romans he says, "Present your body a living sacrifice. ." Rom. 12:1-2

- C.** That the believe be not tossed to and fro with every wind of doctrine.
1. The goal is the maturing of the saints. Eph. 4:11-16
 - a. We are to grow in Christ.
 - b. We are to develop in Christ.
 - c. We are to mature at every level.
 2. The Holy Spirit warns about the latter times. 1Tim. 4:1
 - a. The proclamation is to be the explicit word of the Holy Spirit to the church.
 - b. The warning concerns the nature of the latter times.
 - c. Some will depart from the faith in the latter times at various seasons.
 - d. The method is by giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons through false teachers
 3. There are various examples of the dangers of teaching with no regard to doctrine.
 - a. Jesus said, "You are mistaken not knowing the "Scriptures" nor the "power" of God." Matt 22:29
 - b. Peter says, "As natural brute beasts speak evil of the things that they understand not." 2Pet. 2:12
 - c. Peter again says, "They twist them to their own destruction." 2Pet. 3:16
 - d. Paul says, "They pervert the gospel." Gal. 1:6-9

Illustration

Robert E. Lee said, “In all my perplexities and distresses, the Bible has never failed to give me light and strength.” #720, Vol. 2

An African woman was asked if she enjoyed reading her new Bible. She replied, “Sir, I am not reading this Book. This Book is reading me!” #716, Vol. 2

Application

1. The value of Scripture is knowing God’s authority is over my life, I am His child and a servant. Jn. 1:12
2. The growth of the believer is identified in three stages, a child, young man and a father, each stage to be lived out in spiritual maturity. 1Jn. 2:12-14
3. The greatest danger toady is the amount of deceptive doctrine being taught within the church, not from outside the church, even as when Jude wrote of the men who crept in unnoticed to deceive. Jude 4
4. The book, “The Prayer of Jazbed” by evangelist Bruce Wilkinson that was used as a formula prayer to be blessed and get things from God, another corrupt twist of the faith movement of “name it and claim it”. 2Chron. 4:10
* The name Jebez means to grieve or sorrow, this is really what the book should have been entitles for any formula prayer that guarantees you results is grieving to God!
5. The book, “Jesus Calling by Sara young that are supposed to be dictations directly from Jesus and the Christian community raves over it, yet it is dictations

by demon spirits, New Age channeling that Sara based on a book in the 1930’s called, God Calling, by two English women. The content of her dictations contradict the Bible, deceiving believers.

6. The book, “Have Heart, by Steve & Sarah Berger about the ongoing appearances of their son speaking to them and others on earth after his death. Yet Chuck Missler and Greg Laurie endorse their book!

* “But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, *and* bring on themselves swift destruction. And **many** will **follow** their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed.” 2Pet. 2:1-2

Do you see the need for doctrine?

III. The authority of the Scriptures for doctrine.

- A. God spoke in the past and in different manners. Heb. 1:1-2
 1. God spoke at various times “polumesos”, means many portions, meaning books and time, both Old Testament and New Testament. vs. 1
 2. In various ways “polutropos” means in many ways and methods. vs. 1
 - a. Dreams.
 - b. Visions.
 - c. Miracles.

- d. Signs.
 - e. Wonders.
 - f. Theophanies.
 - 3. God spoke to the fathers by the Prophets in the Old Testament. vs. 1
 - * To Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.
 - 4. God has spoken in these “last days” spoken to us by His Son. vs. 2
 - a. Whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds.
 - b. He is the final word to man.
- B. God tells us that all Scripture is given by Inspiration of God. 2Tim. 3:16-17**
- 1. The word inspiration “theopneustos” means God breathed, literally ex-spired out from God. vs. 16a
 - * This includes the Old and New Testament.
 - 2. The Word of God is profitable for specific things. vs. 16b-e
 - * For doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.
 - 3. The purpose is with design and intent to make him completely adequate in spiritual matters for life. vs. 17
 - * “That the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

- C. Men were moved by the Holy Spirit. 2Pet. 1:20-21**
- 1. The prophecies of the Scriptures are not of any private interpretation, not one. vs. 20-21a
 - a. This Scripture is often abused and misused both in the interpretation and application by saying that it is teaching that a person can not give a subjective interpretation to Scripture.
 - b. Though this is a true Biblical principle for Biblical exposition, this is not what Peter is teaching, rather Peter is teaching that these men who wrote the Scriptures never spoke from their own will, impulse or origin.
 - 2. The Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. vs. 21b
 - a. They were moved “phero”, literally carried along by the Holy Spirit to insure the reliable recording of Divine truth.
 - b. This called “plenary verbal inspiration”.
 - 3. The message from Genesis to Revelation is about Jesus the Messiah.
 - a. All authority has been given to Jesus, in heaven and earth. Matt. 28:18
 - b. The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. Rev. 19:10g
 - b. Jesus said, “You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal

life; and these are they which testify of me.” Jn. 5:39

4. The New Testament is on the same level as the Old Testament.
 - a. Peter accepts Paul’s writings as Scripture. 2Pet. 3:15-16
 - b. Paul combines Old and the words of Jesus and calls them Scripture. Deut. 25:4; Lk. 10:7; 1Tim. 5:18
 - b. Jesus Himself told His disciples that the Holy Spirit would teach them, show them and speak for them. Jn 14-16

Illustration

When the noted Dr. Pollich, of Mellerstadt, heard Martin Luther lecture at the University of Wittenberg, he said, “That monk will confound all the learned doctors, propound a new doctrine, and reform the whole Roman church, for he studies the writings of the prophets and evangelists. He relies on the Word of Jesus Christ, and no one can subvert that, either with philosophy or with sophistry.”. #671, Vol. 2

Application

1. Jesus said, “For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. Matt. 5:18
2. One fifth of the Bible is prophecy and many have been fulfilled, in fact Jesus fulfilled over three hundred in His First Coming.

3. The men of God today are filled with the Holy Spirit of God to learn, preach and teach the Christian life, but they are not carried along as the prophets of apostles of old to speak inerrant or infallible.

Do you believe the authority of the Scriptures for doctrine?

IV. The believer's duty regarding doctrine.

- A. You and I are to hold fast the pattern of sound words, which you have heard from me. 2Tim 1:13
 1. The responsibility is mine alone, to hold fast “echo”, to possess and not let go, an imperative command in the present active tense, ongoing.
 2. The word sound “hugiaino” means to be in good health, unmixed with error and be incorrupt.
- B. You and I are to “take heed” to ourselves and unto the doctrine and “continue” in them. 1Tim. 4:16
 1. The two imperative command in the present active, ongoing have a two-fold benefit.
 2. You will save yourself and them that hear you.
- C. You and I are to pass on what we have learned to others who shall be able to teach others, discipleship. 2Tim. 2:2

1. Another imperative command.
 2. Due to the privilege of receiving.
 3. Due to the responsibility of giving out.
- D.** You and I are to preach the Word, be ready in season and out of season. 2Tim. 4:2-4
1. To convince, rebuke and exhort, four imperative commands to be ongoing with “preach”. vs. 2a-d
 2. How? With all longsuffering and doctrine “dada slalia” or teaching. vs. 2e
 3. Why? For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. vs. 3-4
- E.** You and I are to be holding fast to the faithful word we have been taught. Tit. 1:9
1. Why? That he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and to convict those who contradict, the Scriptures.
 2. The believer is to embrace and not let go the trustworthy and reliable Word of God they have been taught!
- F.** You and I are to contend earnestly for the faith which was once and for all delivered to the saints. Jude 3

1. The conscious awareness is the need to contend.
2. The confidence is that the faith was given once and for all, there is no new revelation to alter or be added to the Scriptures.

Illustration

As I have said often, “If you say that the Word of God does not work, it is a worst commentary about yourself than the Bible”. The Bible works, but the key is, “You must die to self daily and completely”.

Application

1. We believe in the Word of God and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit for doing ministry. Acts 1:8
2. We believe the model for the church is a living organism, the bride of Christ, not an organization. Eph. 5:23
3. We believe God adds to the church daily, those that are being saved. Acts 2:47b
4. We believe we are saved by grace through faith, not of ourselves, it is a gift of God. Eph. 2:8-9
5. We believe in the centrality of Jesus, His eternal pre-existence, virgin birth, deity, Atonement for the sins of the entire world, His first and Second coming. Jn. 3:16
6. We believe Jesus will return for His church before the seven years of tribulation in what is commonly called “the Rapture of the church”. Jn. 14:1-3; 1Thess. 4:13-8

7. We believe in a literal one thousand year reign on the earth for the remnant of Israel with Jesus reigning and we, His church with Him. Rev. 20:1-3, 7-10
8. We believe that the “apape love” of God can make us one, when we differ in doctrines that do not deal with the atonement, the deity of Jesus, His humanity or First and Second coming. 1Cor. 13:1-8a
9. If you do not agree with the philosophy of ministry of the church you are attending, then go find a church that you do agree with and get busy about the kingdom, don’t be trying to change that church, arguing and dividing churches or worst yet stumbling and causing young believers to leave their church and be fashioned after your bad example.
 - a. The modern church is becoming a high teach attraction and it is hard to discern what is of the flesh and what is of the Spirit.
 - b. Corporate and marketing principles are often used today to run and maintain the church.
 - c. Visual entertainment is being used for drawing people, rather than the calling on a man’s life, anointing, prayer, the Holy Spirit and the Word of God.

Do you know the believer's duty regarding doctrine?

V. The way to determines what is doctrine?

- A. Doctrine won’t be a new revelation discovered by you.
 1. Too often it is based on partial truths.

2. Too often it is based on a text out of context.
 3. Too often it bring glory and attention to the preacher or teacher, rather than Christ.
 4. Too often these weird doctrines are introduced by new movements apart from the Scriptures and more on emotions, experience and a subjective interpretation.
- B. Doctrine isn’t staking a collection of Scriptures together to teach what you believe the Bible says or teaches.**
1. It must be based on the full council of God, Scripture interpreting Scripture, Calvinism is the best example. Acts 20:27; 1Cor. 2:13
 - a. Predestination and the election of the believer is a Biblical truth based on God’s sovereign foreknowledge.
 - b. Free will and choice by every person to be saved is based on God’s love and justice.
 - c. The two doctrines have polarized the church into two camps called “Arminianism” and “Calvinism”.
 - d. Both are extremes by the exclusion of the other, when in fact they are complements for salvation.
 2. Predestination or election must not rest on human logic excluding free will that clearly defies the Scriptures. Acts 17:11
 - a. Because God predestined some to be saved does not mean that God

- predestined some to be damn without having a choice.
- b. Such a logical proposition would make God unjust, unholy and unloving, choosing some to be saved and rejecting others to be lost, while knowing all of them are sinner deserving hell!
3. Predestination and election must be checked against the Attributes of God so as not to demean and accuse God.
 - a. Does the teaching make Him less than God.
 - b. Does it contradict the attributes of God?
 4. Calvinism must be exposed as unbiblical, not the doctrine of predestination or election.
 - a. This could be a form of dishonesty.
 - b. This could be a form of deception.
 - c. This could be a form of intellectual cleverness.
- C. Doctrine can be determined by asking yourself certain questions:
1. Is it part of the teaching of Jesus?
 2. Is it found in the book of Acts?
 3. Is it taught in the epistles?
- D. Doctrine should be based on the hermeneutics of Biblical interpretation.
1. Relate the text to its context, that which precedes and follows.

2. Relate the text to the people that it was written to, having a historical background.
3. Relate the text to an accurate exegesis of words in the original language and syntax.
4. Relate the text to the subject of the particular book.
5. Relate the text to the entire Bible, confirming the truth.
6. Relate the harmony and agreement of the particular verse throughout the Scriptures, as an affirmation of the doctrine.
7. Relate the text to honest integrity and allow it to speak for itself without inserting preconceived ideas or theological bias.
 - a. For the most simple and obvious understanding is usually the correct one.
 - b. So if the text makes sense, do not make it say non-sense, Wesley said.

Illustration

A plumb-line is a sure way to know if a wall is crooked, the plumb-line can not make a crooked wall straight nor be blamed of making a straight wall crooked, so is the efficiency of Bible doctrine to keep us on track with God's Word.

Application

1. Are you being caught up in some of the new doctrinal heresy of the prosperity doctrine, that you are to be healthy and wealthy, due to the fact that you

are a little god and Jesus went to hell to finish the atonement paid to Satan?

2. Perhaps you are being deceived by the “Emergent Church Movement” that is culturalizing the gospel with Political Correctness, which is no gospel?
3. Maybe you are being taken in by this barking in the Spirit and flying like animals, etc, giving the world more opportunity to mock the church.
4. Some are being deceived by Reform Theology teaching the extreme of predestination at the exclusion of man’s free will, drawing lines and camps, instead of acknowledging both and abiding in Christ!
5. You may conclude that the Holy Spirit is not in the service if no one raises their hands, speaks in tongues, prophesying or falls to the ground in what they call “slain in the Spirit” and thereby interpreting your theology by your subjective emotions and feelings, rather than the word of God!
6. Rick Warren says the study and teaching of prophecy is a waste of time, Jesus said we are to do both, who are you going to believe?

Do you know how to determine what is doctrine?

Conclusion

If we don’t use the Scriptures to learn about God, man, sin, the Holy Spirit, Jesus, angels, Satan, redemption, etc., then we are left to our own ignorance and conjecture which can only result in inferior and corrupt knowledge about God and man because it is based on human intelligence.

“The seriousness of errant doctrine can be compared to a missile aimed a mere one degree off target. The difference seems slight and negligible at first, yet the results of the error increase dramatically throughout the flight of the missile, until it totally misses its intended target.

So it is with false doctrine. At first it may seem to be a tolerable mistake, a little error and not that serious, but as with all errors, the effects compound over time until they become so serious that they may not be correctable.”