

Christian Beliefs

Introduction

“Doctrine matters. What you believe about God, the gospel, the nature of man, and every major truth addressed in Scripture filters down to every area of your life. You and I will never rise above our view of God and our understanding of His Word.” – John MacArthur

*Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to **doctrine**. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. Take heed to yourself and to the **doctrine**. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you. **1 Tim 4:13-16** (NKJV)*

Doctrine refers to a set of core beliefs (Greek: didache – teaching/instruction). The word doctrine is used 56 times in the Bible.

- Jesus taught doctrine
*And they were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes. **Mark 1:22** (KJV)*
- The Apostles taught doctrine
*And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. **Acts 2:42** (KJV)*
- Good ministers teach doctrine
*If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed. **1 Tim 4:6** (NKJV)*

What is Doctrine? J. I. Packer

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cVNDNRUvblk>

A. False Doctrine – Teaching that is contrary to Scripture

The doctrine of the Pharisees (Mt 16:12); doctrines of devils (1 Tim 4:1); contrary doctrine (Romans 16:17); Every wind of doctrine (Eph 4:14).

*For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. **2 Tim 4:3-4** (NIV)*

“It is no secret that Christ’s Church is not at all in good health in many places of the world. She has been languishing because she has been fed, as the current line has it, “junk food.” All kinds of artificial preservatives and all sorts of unnatural substitutes have been served up to her. As a result, theological and biblical malnutrition has afflicted the very generation that has taken such giant steps to make sure its physical health is not damaged by using foods or products that are carcinogenic or otherwise harmful to their bodies. Simultaneously a worldwide spiritual famine resulting from the absence of any genuine publications of the Word of God (Amos 8:11) continues to run wild and almost unabated in most quarters of the Church.” (Kaiser, *Exegetical Theology*, 6)

- B. Sound Doctrine – Teaching that is healthy and wholesome. How are we able to distinguish the difference between sound and false doctrine?

Sound doctrine reveals the nature, character, and attributes of God

“It has been said that “the proper study of mankind is man.” I believe it is equally true that the proper study of God’s elect is God; the proper study of a Christian is the Godhead. The highest science, the loftiest speculation, the mightiest philosophy, which can ever engage the attention of a child of God, is the name, the nature, the person, the work, the doings, and the existence of the great God whom he calls his Father.” – Spurgeon

Sound doctrine points to the preeminence of Jesus – His humanity and His deity.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.
Colossians 1:15-18 (NKJV)

Sound doctrine proclaims the glory of the Gospel – The glory of God is displayed by His redemption of sinners and the restoration of creation by His grace.

*So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son. He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins. **Eph 1:6-7** (NLT)*

Sound doctrine fits the teaching of all Scripture – It is consistent with other passages in the Bible.

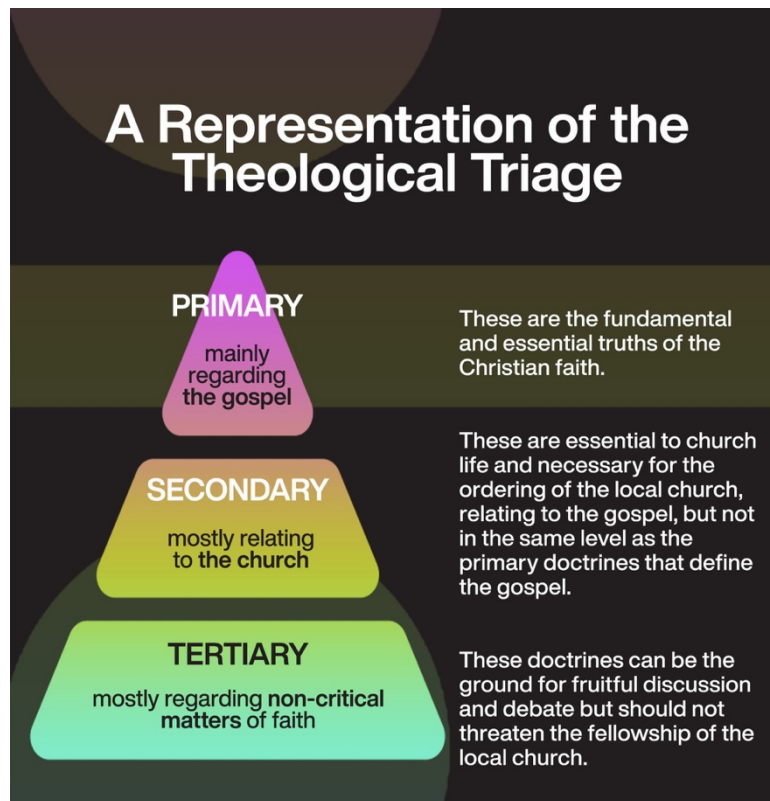
*All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. **2 Tim 3:16** (NKJV)*

Sound doctrine produces Christ-like character – Love, humility, ministry, maturity

*For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people. And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God. **Titus 2:11-12** (NLT)*

What is Doctrine? Paul Tripp

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c9-lK_qSKIQ



“In essentials, unity...in nonessentials, liberty...in all things, charity.” -Rupertus Meldenius