

Why we are Doctrinal

Fellowship to Cultivate Sound Doctrine

The phrase I want us to consider for the month of January is “Fellowship with a purpose”. Our gathering is not random or without purpose. Scripture clearly teaches us that we must fellowship together to encourage one another so that we may be challenged and equipped to glorify God.

This week we will focus on “Fellowship to Cultivate Sound Doctrine”.

What is Sound Doctrine

The Bible often speaks of teaching and living by sound doctrine. So, what is sound doctrine? Simply put, sound doctrine is the teachings of the Bible. The Bible teaches us about God, man, life, sin, grace, baptism, marriage, wrath and many other subjects. Therefore, sound doctrine is rightly expressing the teachings of the Bible as a whole on any given subject.

Psalm 119:105 (CSB) - *Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light on my path.*

Why is God’s Word key to sound doctrine? Jesus makes this clear when He is praying in John 17:17 (CSB) says: *Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.* We cannot live a life for God’s glory without being sanctified by the Word of God. Therefore, you cannot be a faithful follower of Christ without sound doctrine.

Jesus Explains Why Sound Doctrine Important

John 14:6, 15-17, 23-26 (CSB)

⁶Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

¹⁵“If you love me, you will keep my commands. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever. ¹⁷He is the Spirit of truth. The world is unable to receive him because it doesn’t see him or know him. But you do know him, because he remains with you and will be in you.

²³Jesus answered, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. ²⁴The one who doesn’t love me will not keep my words. The word that you hear is not mine but is from the Father who sent me. ²⁵“I have spoken these things to you while I remain with you. ²⁶But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have told you.

Embracing “the truth” revealed to us in God’s Word is necessary for believers and the church. We must love, embrace and apply sound doctrine.

Proverbs 12:17 - *Whoever speaks the truth declares what is right, but a false witness speaks deceit.*

The Bible is clear about what will happen to those that forsake the truth and embrace false doctrine.
Romans 1:25 & Hebrews 13:9

What about those that teach the false doctrines...what does the Bible say about them? 1 Timothy 6:3-10

Discussion Questions:

- ❖ Why is it necessary to understand the importance of sound doctrine?
- ❖ What are the dangers of embracing false teachings/doctrine?
- ❖ What are the dangers in teaching and/or promoting false teachings/doctrine?

Why People LOVE false teachers

2 Timothy 4:3-4 (CSB) - *³For the time will come when people will not tolerate sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, will multiply teachers for themselves because they have an itch to hear what they want to hear. ⁴They will turn away from hearing the truth and will turn aside to myths.*

How Does God View False Teachers? Deuteronomy 18:20, Ezekiel 13:8-9, Jeremiah 14:14, Jeremiah 23:16

There will always be false teachers. Acts 20:28-31, 1 John 4:1, Matthew 7:15, 2 Peter 2:1-3

Seek a Church that LOVES Sound Doctrine

Titus 1:5-16 (CSB)

*⁵The reason I left you in Crete was to set right what was left undone and, as I directed you, to appoint elders in every town. ⁶An elder must be blameless, the husband of one wife, with faithful children who are not accused of wildness or rebellion. ⁷As an overseer of God's household, he must be blameless, not arrogant, not hot-tempered, not an excessive drinker, not a bully, not greedy for money, ⁸but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, righteous, holy, self-controlled, ⁹holding to the faithful message as taught, so that he will be able **both to encourage with sound teaching and to refute those who contradict it.***

¹⁰For there are many rebellious people, full of empty talk and deception, especially those from the circumcision party. ¹¹It is necessary to silence them; they are ruining entire households by teaching what they shouldn't in order to get money dishonestly. ¹²One of their very own prophets said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons." ¹³This testimony is true. For this reason, rebuke them sharply, so that they may be sound in the faith ¹⁴and may not pay attention to Jewish myths and the commands of people who reject the truth.

¹⁵To the pure, everything is pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; in fact, both their mind and conscience are defiled. ¹⁶They claim to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, and unfit for any good work.

When sound doctrine flows through the life of the church...worship is full and pleasing to the Lord. When false doctrine enters into the life of the church...worship is hindered. Jesus says in Matthew 15:9 (CSB): *They worship me in vain, teaching as doctrines human commands.*

Why is it so important to seek a church that is teaching sound doctrine? Because sound doctrine promotes worship...false doctrine hinders worship.

Discussion Questions:

- ❖ What roll does self-centeredness play in embracing false teachers?
- ❖ Why should we test all things?
- ❖ Why is it important to be apart of a church that teaches sound doctrine?

Bonus Questions:

- ❖ How does doctrine impact your relationship with God?
- ❖ How does doctrine impact your relationship with others?
- ❖ Why should doctrine matter and how much should it matter?