

SOUND DOCTRINE

3 John 1-4

Do you walk in truth? This is the truth God has revealed to us in Scripture. Here we find everything we need to know in order to be right with God and to enjoy peace and happiness in this life. God stands ready to guide us into or teach us this truth if we will submit to Him and allow Him to do so. **John 16:13**, “Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.”

This brings us to the importance of doctrine, sound doctrine. Doctrine is instruction; “something that is taught; a principle or position or the body of principles in a branch of knowledge or system of belief.” One of the qualifications of a pastor is given in **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.”

Many today who claim to be Christians are not walking in truth. They do not endure sound doctrine. **2 Timothy 4:1-4**, “I charge *thee* therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. 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; And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.”

If you listen to some of the preachers in some of the largest congregations in the country for just a little while you soon discover that they are not telling the whole truth. Some things they say are true, but they refuse to tell their listeners other truths that give the correct understanding of what they have said. A half-truth is a lie. This is not sound doctrine.

There are a number of women preachers on the TV. These, regardless of what they may be saying, are refusing to follow sound doctrine. Let me say this, it is not up to me or you to say who can preach and teach the Word of God. If God says nothing about it then we must leave them alone. However, God does speak emphatically about this. **1 Timothy 2:11-12**, “Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.” **1 Corinthians 14:34**, “Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but *they are commanded* to be under obedience, as also saith the law.” This is sound doctrine that some refuse to obey. When it comes to teaching the word of God in the church where men are present, women are to keep silent.

Many preachers and teachers are deceiving their listeners. Much of what they say is not truth. We are warned of this. **2 Timothy 3:13**, “...evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.” **2 Peter 2:1-2**, “But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.”

I. SOUND DOCTRINE IS VERY IMPORTANT.

A. The Lord taught sound doctrine.

Mark 4:2 “And he taught them many things by parables, and said unto them in his doctrine....” **Matthew 7:28** “And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine.” **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.”

B. The early church continued in sound doctrine.

Acts 2:42, “And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread and prayers.” **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.” **Acts 13:12**, “Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, believed, being astonished at the doctrine of the Lord.”

II. SOUND DOCTRINE IS THE FAITH ONCE DELIVERED TO THE SAINTS.

Jude 3, “Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.” There is “one faith.” It is the body of sound doctrine given to us in the Scriptures.

III. SOUND DOCTRINE IS THE BASIS FOR FELLOWSHIP AND UNITY (Eph. 4:1-6).

There are those who do not want doctrine. They reject it because it divides people. One author wrote, “Too many Christians require common doctrine as the basis for fellowship. And it is true that if we don’t think the same and believe the same, there is friction between us instead of peace. **But common doctrine isn’t the basis for fellowship; common heritage is.** We’re all children of God, and that’s enough to bring us together in peace.” God’s response to that lie is **Amos 3:3**, “Can two walk together, except they be agreed?”

It is true that doctrine divides. We are to promote unity in the church. **v3**, “Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” What is it that unifies us? **v4-6**, “There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”

A. There are some core beliefs on which we must agree.

- 1. We must agree on the inspiration and inerrancy of the Scripture.*
- 2. We must agree on the virgin birth and Deity of Jesus Christ.*
- 3. We must agree on the vicarious death of Christ on the cross.*
- 4. We must agree on the literal, physical resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.*
- 5. We must agree that salvation is by grace through faith and not of works.*
- 6. We must agree on the eternal security of those who believe in Christ.*
- 7. We must agree on the importance and purpose of the local church.*
- 8. We must agree on the personal and literal return of Christ on the earth.*

B. These beliefs will protect us.

Ephesians 4:11-16, “And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: 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; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.”

C. These beliefs will cause division.

However this division is necessary if we are to obey the Lord and truly be of help to those who do not believe the truth.

- 1. We are to avoid those who teach false doctrine.*

Romans 16:17, “Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.” **1 Timothy 6:3-5**, “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...from such withdraw thyself.”

- 2. We are to refuse them entry into our houses.*

2 John 1:9-10, “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. If there come any unto you, and

bring not this doctrine, receive him not into *your* house, neither bid him God speed:"

3. We are to rebuke the disobedient with sound doctrine.

2 Timothy 4:2, "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine." **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."

Do we tickle their ears so as not to offend them, or do we tell them the truth in order to try to help them?

Are you walking in truth? It begins with salvation. We are talking about walking. What are the steps to salvation?

First, the Holy Spirit convicts us of sin. We realize that we have sinned against God and are in trouble with Him. We respond with a desire to be right with God.

Second, the Holy Spirit gets the gospel to us from the Bible. We learn that Jesus died for us and paid for our sins and that He rose again from the dead. We learn that what God requires of us is that we call on Him to save us.

Third, we respond with a simple prayer. It can be simply, "God be merciful to me a sinner." God responds by saving us; forgiving all our sin and giving us eternal life.

This is the only way of salvation. If you are relying on anything else, you are not saved. There is a false doctrine that says there are many ways. Jesus said there is only one way.

Matthew 7:13-14, "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

Jesus is the strait gate, and Jesus is the narrow way. **John 10:9**, "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture." **John 14:6**, "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

Are you saved?