

10. The Book of Acts—2:42

(7/1/26)

We are currently in the third major section of chapter 2—“**The Practice of the Early Church**”:

Acts 2:42 (NKJV)

⁴² And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

This section gives us the *‘blueprint’* or pattern for church life—and I believe the main reason the early church was so strong and effective was because it kept the main thing the main thing!

They didn’t allow themselves to get distracted from the basics and lose their focus as to what Jesus called them to be and do.

“**And they continued steadfastly...**”—they did other things too, like the food pantry ministry—but these were the pillars upon which their church was built.

1. The Apostles doctrine—v.42

Acts 2:42 (NKJV)

⁴² And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine...

May I suggest that this is always the first mark of a Spirit-filled church—the systematic teaching of God’s Word.

The word **‘doctrine’** is the Greek word, *‘didache’* a word we get our word ‘didactic’ from.

The Greek word means *'teaching'* but also refers to the *style* of the teaching method—the teaching was didactic. (Hold on to that I'll come back to it in a minute)

The early Church continued steadfastly in the apostle's doctrine.

The apostles and NT prophets received direct revelation from God which they then taught to those early Christians.

Eventually, these teachings were written down and became the N.T. Scriptures.

The teaching of sound doctrine from God's Word has always been the foundation upon which the Church has been built—

Ephesians 2:20 (NKJV)

²⁰ [the Church] having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief *cornerstone* [Comment]

Paul admonished pastors like Timothy and Titus—

Titus 1:9 (NKJV)

[A pastor/overseer must be a person who is] ⁹ holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.

2 Timothy 2:2 (NKJV)

² And the things that you have heard from me [sound doctrine] among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

The didactic method of teaching has always been the way God has communicated His truth to mankind.

The didactic way of thinking is *'black is black and white is white'*—it is thinking in terms of contrast—*'right and wrong'*; *'truth and error'*; *'blessing and cursing.'*

For example, in the Law God gave 613 commandments—248 were *positive* (things that were right to do) while 365 were *negative* (things that were wrong to do).

That way of thinking and communicating is essential if we are going to be taught and instructed by the Holy Spirit in the Word—and without which there can be no spiritual growth.

We absolutely must be able to see things in terms of right and wrong—if we're going to be able to obey the biblical injunction to use the Scriptures to "*Teach, reprove, correct and instruct people in the righteousness of God.*" (2Tim. 3:16)

Today, however, this way of thinking and teaching is being replaced with a new way of thinking and teaching.

It is a process or technique that is attributed to the German philosopher Hegel—but it goes all the way back to the Garden of Eden.

It is a process that seeks to move people from a '*black and white*' way of thinking where truth consists of absolutes (absolute right and absolute wrong)—into a more *centrist* position where truth consists of differing '*shades of gray.*'

This then allows people to justify behavior that is contrary to the clear commands of Scripture—things that God has condemned as being absolutely wrong (adultery, homosexuality, murder etc.).

As I said, the old way of thinking was didactic.

As long as people think in that way (even if they are secular people), if they continue to think *didactically* in terms of right and wrong—God can still speak into their hearts and bring conviction and correction into their lives leading ultimately to change.

But today a paradigm shift has taken place in our society and in the Christian Church away from the *didactic* way of thinking to a dialectic (reasoning thru dialogue) way of thinking.

The whole idea behind the use of the dialectic process is to bring people together and build relationships by getting them to soften or compromise what they know to be true because knowing gets in the way of relationships ('doctrine divides').

For example, if you believe that $2 + 2 = 4$ and someone else believes it equals 5 but you insist it equals 4 and nothing else—what you *know* is getting in the way of your relationship with that other person.

In the dialectic approach the goal is to take you from *Thesis* (what you know is true) to *Synthesis* where everyone in the group lets go of black and white thinking and everyone's beliefs get kind of mixed together and homogenized into gray.

Now to do this they have to take you through a painful middle zone known as 'Antithesis.'

So, the dialectic process is to move people from: Thesis → Antithesis → Synthesis.

Why is this so important?

Because there are groups in this country that are working for the cause of globalism who are applying this way of thinking in schools, corporations and at the federal, state and local levels of government.

This has to be done if they're going to break people of thinking nationalistically and constitutionally to ultimately bring mankind together and achieve a one world government—which starts with one world global thinking!

This is the "Globalist Agenda."

You see, these social engineers don't like the didactic—patriarchal—biblical—right/wrong way of thinking because it produces nationalism and nationalism brings about division to the social world order they're trying to bring about (ultimately the government of the Antichrist).

So, their agenda is to create an environment where people can decide for themselves what is right and wrong where truth becomes relative—which by the way was exactly what Satan did in the Garden of Eden with Eve.

And to accomplish their objectives, these people have trained *facilitators* (“to make change easy”) to work within a group setting (work group, education group, church small groups etc.) which they call “*group dynamics*.”

And the goal is to get people to stop focusing on what they believe to be *true* (which for a Christian means to get them to stop focusing on the *truth* of God's Word) and get them to focus on *relationships*.

For example, if there's a group where one person is a committed evangelical Bible believing Christian and one person is a homosexual—the Christian is going to say that homosexuality is wrong, it's sin.

The facilitator is going to try to get the Christian to focus on their *relationship* with the homosexual person—which can't go forward as long as the Christian's beliefs make the gay person feel bad.

In this group dynamic, feelings trump truth, and unity (relationships) above all else is paramount!

And so, the whole point and goal is to move the Christian from a black and white way of thinking—(right vs. wrong) to an emotional/feelings-based position where relationship and not truth becomes the focus.

If the facilitator can move your thinking away from objective truth by getting you to become concerned about how the other person *'feels'*—that will directly affect whatever standards of right and wrong you've been taught.

We've all had to confront people at times because they were involved in something that was wrong or destructive.

But if we start making their feelings the most important consideration—we're going to find a way to justify and accept what they're involved in because we don't want to hurt them.

We see this quite a bit with Christian parents who have a homosexual child—(Explain).

But as Christians we will never please God if we seek to please people.

Galatians 1:9-10 (NKJV)

⁹ As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed. ¹⁰ For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.

But that is exactly what the dialectic process seeks to accomplish—to turn people into man pleasers.

That in a nutshell is the whole goal of antithesis—to create an *'antithesis moment'* where the facilitator gets you to feel stress or tension because you're stuck between your desire to be faithful to God's Word and His teaching on homosexuality with His command to love others, and with our natural desire to relate to the group.

If he or she can put you into this position where your feelings are in direct conflict with your standards it will *destabilize* you and produce a paradigm shift in your thinking and cause you to abandon what God has said in favor of what you feel.

This is exactly what Satan did with Eve in the Garden of Eden.

When Satan confronted Eve he used a sentence structure on her that is the most powerful sentence structure used to change a person's thinking and redirect it to another person's way of thinking—which in this context was Satan's way of thinking.

In fact, it's something that's so powerful it's used in hypnosis to conform a person's thinking to whatever the hypnotist wants them to think—something known as a 'Nero linguistic.'

It's a statement embedded in a question and the goal was create in her one of these 'antithesis moments' where she stopped appealing to the higher authority of God's Word for her behavior and instead, she evaluated the situation based on her feelings.

We were not created to *evaluate* God's Word—we were created to obey God's Word—

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NKJV)

⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;

⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

That is pure didactic language.

The 10 Commandments are another example of pure didactic language that God has used to communicate His truth and will to mankind from Genesis thru Revelation.

Deuteronomy 30:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ "I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, *that* I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore, choose life, that both you and your descendants may live...(obedience or disobedience to what God said)

You see, biblical language is *patriarchal*—in other words, it appeals to a higher authority—God Himself and what He has said in His Word.

An example of this would be when Satan came against Jesus in the wilderness to try to tempt Him into disobeying His Father.

Jesus didn't dialogue with the devil, He didn't evaluate the situation to determine what was the right thing to do (situational ethics), He simply appealed to a higher authority—He said three times *"It is written..."*

He deferred to the Word of God and said, *"I am simply to obey what God said—period!"*

Today the Church is moving away from didactic/biblical teaching and thinking to a dialectic/feelings oriented/relational way of thinking.

Look, it's not important what I think about what God has said or how I feel about what God has said the only thing that's important is that the Bible contains what God has said.

That only leaves a person with one of two choices—will I obey it or not—will I choose life or death, blessing or cursing?

Matthew 4:4 (NKJV)

⁴ But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.' "

And yet more and more Christians are saying things like, *"I don't care what the Bible says, I feel homosexuality is OK"* or *"I feel this or that is OK for me to do..."* even though it contradicts what God has said.

Many pastors today, instead of challenging this way of thinking, are catering to it by teaching that we need to adopt a *'new way of thinking'* if we're going to reach out to people and bring them together.

(Rick Warren reaching out to the leader of one particular homosexual group—*"How can we work together?"*)

They believe that doctrine divides, so they teach what the church today needs to do is to downplay doctrine and emphasize *experiences* which are designed to evoke feelings and build relationships.

The only way the Purpose Driven or Emergent movements will succeed is that they have to change the way Christians think and so they are using this dialectic method and targeting church small groups.

Paul said in 2 Cor. 4:2 that he didn't handle the Word of God deceitfully ('to water down').

Paul is saying that he didn't water the Word down so as to make it less offensive and more appealing to his hearers.

But today that is exactly what many pastors and churches are doing—something that God condemned way back in the OT—

Hosea 4:6 (NKJV)

⁶ My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.

Is God getting ready to judge His people?

He did in the OT when they refused to obey His Word but rather listened to false prophets—

Jeremiah 23:28-29 (NKJV)

²⁸ "The prophet who has a dream, let him tell a dream; And he who has My word, let him speak My word faithfully. What *is* the chaff to the wheat?" says the LORD. ²⁹ "*Is* not My word like a fire?" says the LORD, "And like a hammer *that* breaks the rock in pieces?"

Isaiah 66:2 (NKJV)

² For all those *things* My hand has made, And all those *things* exist," Says the Lord. "But on this *one* will I look: On *him who is* poor and of a contrite spirit, And who trembles at My word.