



The Fundamental List - Part 8

In every generation, new and sometimes toxic opinions get woven into streams of Christianity. Which is why it is essential to remembering one primary fact– the starting point and the ending point for understanding what God is like, is Jesus. And in his final days on Earth, Jesus made it clear that He– not a religious order or set of texts– was the source of authority in Heaven and on Earth. This earliest principle of Christian doctrine has sometimes been lost as our modern theories about the exact details of the Bible’s inspiration and authority have come into conflict with each other, creating confusion and even discouraging some from following Jesus. But none of the earliest authors of scripture list beliefs about the Bible as a fundamental of faith– indeed, the Bible as we know it was still taking shape. Instead, faith rested on the recognition that Jesus was God made flesh, and that his death and resurrection had secured his place as King.

Getting Started

1. Have you ever felt like you were set up for failure by some instruction or rule you inherited from an authority figure? What happened? How did it feel?

What About You?

2. What were the first words you remember used to describe the Bible? Inspired? God’s Word? Myth? Something else?
3. Has your view of the Bible evolved over time? How? Why?
4. Discuss how these two statements landed with you: An error in any part of the Bible undermines the credibility of all of it.
5. What does it mean to you that people were following Jesus 300 years before the Bible was formally assembled?



Look It Up

1 Corinthians 5:14–17, Acts 15:13–19

6. Do you think the claim that Jesus had been resurrected seemed more absurd or less absurd to nonbelievers when Paul was writing (as compared to now)? Why?
7. What is Paul's point here, in your view? Why write something so potentially inflammatory?
8. What do you think James meant by the term, "difficult?" Why was he moved to say this?
9. What would the alternative have been to James' suggestion? How would it have affected Christianity?

Putting It All Together

10. Why do you think people are so eager to draw extra rules around what it takes to follow Jesus? Can you think of any areas where you've done this? What would repentance look like in this situation?
11. Are you ever guilty of treating the Bible like a contemporary newspaper, instead of an ancient account of God's redemptive interventions into human history? What's the difference?
12. Does your understanding of faith hinge on Jesus's role as our best picture of God, and our King in all parts of life? What has gotten in the way of this truth in your life?

