



The Fundamental List - Week 1

What must one believe to be a faithful follower of Jesus? What's essential? Bare minimum, according to the 1st-century use of the term, "Jesus Follower?" What makes this question confusing is that the Christian faith is like a giant house of living rooms, each with a double door to the outside world and hidden passageways to all the other living rooms. Each inviting people in, but with its own conditions. Traditions. Expectations. Interpretations. The only thing they have in common? They're confident they're right and everybody else is mistaken, or flat out heretical. We're all probably wrong about some things. But hopefully, not the main things. So, the question becomes— what is essential, and what isn't?

Getting Started

1. Do you think people mostly change from season to season throughout life, or mostly stay the same? Why?

What About You?

2. Is there anything related to faith that you once believed but no longer believe? Why?
3. Have you ever been tempted to walk away from faith completely? Partially? Temporarily? If so, why? If not, why not?
4. Have you ever seen somebody "throw the baby out with the bathwater?" What was motivating them? What good things did they unfortunately eliminate in their zeal?
5. When have you noticed people elevating their own biases or interests to the status of religious dogma? Have you ever done this, yourself?



Look It Up

Matthew 16:13-17,

6. If it were true, what all does Simon's answer imply about Jesus's identity? Role in history?
7. If Jesus is our clearest picture of what God is like, how might that change your view of who God is?
8. Think about the the things about religion or church culture that have bothered you. Are any of them consistent with the character of Jesus we see in the gospels? Are any of them extraneous?

Putting It All Together

9. What doctrine of the Christian faith do you have the most difficult time accepting? Are you sure it's an essential?
10. Where have you found your faith too simple to stand up to the complications of life? What would growth look like for you in this area?
11. Are there any places in your life where you are potentially elevating your own biases to the status of essential doctrine? What do you think Jesus would say on this issue?

