June 25, 2023

GENERAL INTRODUCTION TO "DIE-FORS"

- 4 Levels: Die For, Divide Over, Debate Together, Decide for Ourselves
- "Divisive people are ones who elevate lower-level issues to divide-fors." "False teachers treat die-for issues as questions open for humble discussion."
- Grids for deciding levels:
 - Exegetical certainty? Theological Importance? Biblical Emphasis? Historical Agreement in the Church?

WHAT WE BELIEVE ABOUT:

FAITH SERIES

- CERTAINTY: Biblical certainty based on clarity and frequency in the Scriptures. CENTRALITY: Effect on other doctrines, including the character of God and the definition of the Gospel. CONSEQUENCES: Importance and impact among God's people. CONSISTENCY: The historical testimony of the Church about the certainty, centrality, and consequences among God's people.
- Another model: Dogma, Doctrine, Theory, Speculation (compared to Scientific Law, Principle, Theory/Hypothesis, Speculation).

THE "DIE-FORS" ABOUT GOD

- 4) Introduction
 - a) "What we believe about God does not matter at all, but it makes all the difference."
 - b) Where should we begin? With God or with His Self-revelation?
- 5) Our Statement of Faith about God:
 - a) We believe in one God, Creator of all things, holy, infinitely perfect, and eternally existing in a loving unity of three equally divine Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Having limitless knowledge and sovereign power, God has graciously purposed from eternity to redeem a people for Himself and to make all things new for His own glory.

6)		NE STATEMENTS: GOD IS (Romans 1:19-20, 2:14-15) i) We are not!
	b)	GOD IS (Isaiah 40:12, 25-28) i) He is enough!
	c)	GOD IS (morally) (Isaiah 6:2-3; Luke 18:18-19) i) He does right!
	d)	GOD IS (in covenant-faithful love) (1 John 4:7-9) i) He always does the!
	e)	GOD IS THREE-IN-ONE (Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Matthew 28:19-20; 1 Peter 1:2) i) He shares a with us!
	f)	 GOD IS THE CREATOR i) of things, (Genesis 1:1; John 1:1-3) ii) from, (Hebrews 11:3; Romans 4:17) iii) in freedom. (Nehemiah 9:6; Isaiah 40:18; Acts 17:24-25)
	g)	GOD IS (Isaiah 55:8-9)
	h)	GOD IS "UNITY/SIMPLICITY" i) To worship God as He is NOT is to commit idolatry. To desire to become like God without knowing Who He is and "how He thinks" is "man-made religion."
	i)	GOD IS the great, good, good, Trinity, in His Son, Jesus Christ, with His attributes in at the Savior's cross.