



Week Two - Doctrine: What Can We Gain From It?

5/29/22

1 Timothy 1:3-7

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2. Sound doctrine can _____ our _____. *John 17:13-17*
3. Sound doctrine can _____ our _____. *John 4:20-24*
4. Sound doctrine can _____ our _____. *Acts 17:22-33*
5. Sound doctrine can _____ our _____. *Eph. 4:1-6*

Taking It Home: Use the following simple discussion starters to discuss what you have learned and further conversations in your home, friends group, or small groups!

Of all that I've heard today,

1. What thought or truth really stands out in my mind the strongest?
2. What thought or truth am I struggling with, or having a difficult time accepting?
3. How was my mind changed on something I thought I previously understood?
4. What piece of truth do I need to share with someone else this week!

UPCOMING EVENTS TO PUT ON MY CALENDAR!

FRI. JUNE 3RD @ 6:30PM - FORGED MEN'S BACKYARD COOKOUT

FRI. JUNE 10TH @ 6:00PM - 50&UP POTLUCK "TRAVELING WITH TED"

SAT. JUNE 18TH - ANNUAL OSBC CAR SHOW

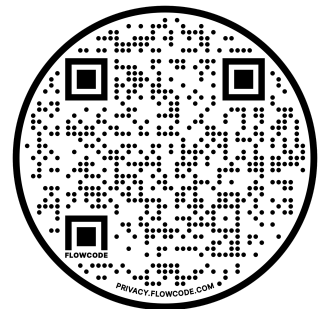
TUE. JUNE 28TH @ 6:30PM - "TASTE AND SEE" LADIES EVENT

JULY 4-9: MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER CAMP

JULY 18-23: HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER CAMP

Details and sign-ups for these events, as well as all upcoming events, can always be found under the [events page](#) of our church APP or on the Welcome Center Info wall!

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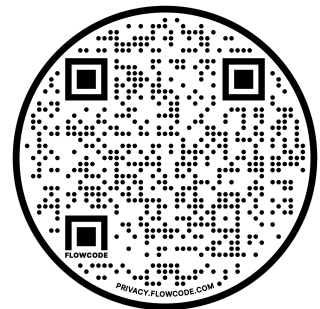
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Thank you for joining us today!

Back to Basics: Doctrine—What Can We Gain From It? 1 Timothy 1:3-7

We began *Back to Basics* last Sunday showing what doctrine is—*it is God's revealed truth found in the Scripture.*

We are given as a local church a definite body of God-revealed doctrine found in Scripture of which **we must know, guard, live and share.**

The Apostle Paul in the main reading this morning urges Timothy, the young pastor, to stay the course in the Ephesus church and confront and correct certain people in the church who were teaching a different doctrine than the one revealed by God.

And then later, in his second letter to Timothy, he encourages him to keep at the preaching of Scripture because **a time will come when people will reject the healthy doctrine of the Scripture in their worship and in their living.**

And this kind of anti-doctrine attitude is becoming more and more common in our time and is a major departure from the Christian instincts seen in Scripture and recorded in previous generations.

In our nation, it has become the divisive, contemporary priorities of culture and its many adverse agendas and its ostracism of Christian values and truth that have fragmented and confused the local church in many, many ways,

misleading many who were once faithful far away from possessing a confidence rooted in a grounded and clear understanding of the God-revealed doctrine and why it matters for a genuine believer.

Sound doctrine roots and grounds us so we can face the issues of our time. I believe learning and understanding the simple sound doctrines of the faith can **strengthen our ability** to answer the questions of our time, **engage with a solid biblical worldview** in the dilemmas of our age, and to help us **remain resolved** about the right direction of the church through all the ebb and flow of each generation.

Certainly, **the NT writers exemplify this kind of understanding of doctrine and its indispensability.**

As we read the NT, it is easy to see that at every turn where they faced practical problems—whether relational, societal, cultural, theological, even political, **they always sought first to clarify the doctrinal issues that address or underlie the problem and then followed their understanding with the best practical remedies.**

In the most profound sense, **sound doctrine is the key to Christian life in the church and the church in the world.**

As I said last week, if we depart from this biblical approach as followers of Jesus in His church—if we think moving the decimal point of the essential doctrines won't matter—we are in great error.

Here are five things today that we can gain as a church by strengthening and understanding the God-revealed doctrine:

1. Sound Doctrine Can Deepen our Love.

Read 1 Timothy 1:3-7

These verses speak timelessly into the condition of our own times and how people still can mishandle or stray away from doctrine.

I prayed over this a lot in my study because **I want to speak as sympathetically as possible** toward those that this text is addressing in our time.

First, as you can see some will “swerve” away from sound doctrine into other things that they think are better, or more enlightened, or more in line with God but yet in our times are actually more in line with the fallen culture —the Apostle says in this swerving all they really do is “promote speculations.”

That means they just instigate arguments and give rise to debates rather than make a true search of the Word and what it actually teaches. The word “speculations” actually refers to the kind of conversational questioning that Scripture **is ultimately divisive, meaningless and fruitless.**

Often it is more of an unspiritual, unlearned attack on the doctrine and it is followed by no real pursuit of the truth,

because the quarreler is set to stubbornly believe what they are intent on believing regardless of what Scripture says anyhow, even while making it look like they are the spiritual ones or the one's more enlightened or truly investigating the matter as those coming of age.

This is the actual aim and crash of the swerve from sound doctrine. The people involved in this do not realize that this is what they are doing, as Scripture says here.

Yet, **and secondly**, Paul says, the aim of true sound doctrine is to help God's people experience true growth in genuine love.

Sound doctrine is the basis of developing genuine love in our life for God and love for others. Sound doctrine enables this growth in genuine love because it is based in truth, not compromise.

I am amazed at some of our defecting Christian brothers and sisters who attempt to act as if they are the loving ones yet they lack in two things—one, **they aren't actually searching the Word honestly and reasonably anymore** to see the healthy teaching and then number two, **their agenda is to just make their agenda the agenda**, which promotes controversial discussions against clear doctrines revealed in Scripture and their method doesn't promote an ordered life of faith and love, although many of these folks contend that it does.

Scripture says here they are missing it entirely while they are professing to be the ones who now get it.

Read 1 Timothy 1:7

(Picture on screen on verses)

Scripture says there are three things happening that they have strayed from which motivates the increase of bad doctrine.

Read 1:5-6 They have swerved from these. And now, instead of a pure heart, they have *a divisive heart toward God's people*; instead a good conscience, *they now have a conflicted conscience* that goes off condemning the church, condemning the truth, and they don't have a sincere faith any longer, but secretly harbor *a hypocritical faith*—**they don't have a real trust in the God of Scripture any longer—they may be shaping a new god— and so they don't have the genuine love of God that goes with it, although they think they do.**

They have amassed instead the moralistic love found in the world-system that opposes God, God's truth and God's people.

As Scripture points out here, it is actually a prideful attitude smeared with the cultural word or idea *love* that goes about judging others, judging truth, judging faith, and especially judging those who desire to humble submit to God's love and God's revealed truth.

I say this as sympathetic as possible. We must be careful of this. And we can do so by learning and accepting the sound doctrine God has given us and living out from it.

Sound doctrine can deepen the true growth of genuine love.

2. Sound Doctrine Can Increase our Holiness.

It is the central means by which we can progress in holiness in our life.

Read John 17:13-17

To ***sanctify*** means to separate or set something apart from sin and to devote it to God's purposes.

King Jesus prays for us that we would be set apart through the message God has revealed—that is the Truth—the truth is the message of God's revealed truth found in Scripture.

Scripture has the power and intent on leading us further into holy, devoted lives.

Scripture tells us that when we come to Christ we are sanctified in Him forever in a positional sense, but Scripture also tells us that we are now called to live progressively from that position of holiness— **growing more and more in our sanctification.**

In our daily life, sanctification involves obeying God and the truth He has revealed, steadily learning to overcome Scriptures definition of sin, mortifying the evil deeds and impulses of our body, surrendering to Scripture as we read it and study it, praying daily not by technique of prayer but by relational joy and love for God, and thereby growing in the knowledge of God and of His will, serving others in that love, and seeking to bring God glory.

This is our holiness.

Learning healthy Bible teachings can increase this deeper life we are called to if we surrender to it.

We have fallen very, very far from this in our generation, *very far.*

3. Sound Doctrine Can Fuel our Worship.

Read John 4:20-24

Let me state this clearly: According to King Jesus, ***we need to keep the proper perspective that right worship is tied tightly to the sound doctrine of God.***

King Jesus just said so right here.

The misled ambitious act in churches to today to entertain, to worship worship, to perform well for others, to market the Gospel, to brand the mission of the church like McDonald's

does a burger, to package it in many different ways—I think **this is our idolatrous Golden Calf today.**

It is our present day worship of God in the wrong way.

In his book, *Letters to Malcom*, C.S. Lewis articulated it coherently back in the early 1960's before he died, he wrote: **“The perfect church service would be one we were almost unaware of; our attention would have been on God.”** (Lewis, 4, 1964)

Monte Wilson wrote over 20 years ago in the book *Compromised Church* that **“Worship [today] is not about adoring God but about being nourished with religious feelings, so much that the worshiper has become the object of worship.”** (Wilson, 67, 1998)

It does appear as so today— the celebrant and the method has actually become the Golden Calf of our churches in the West.

I just see it that way, *too clearly.*

C.S. Lewis also roared, **“Tis mad idolatry that makes the service greater than the god.”** (Lewis, 5, 1964)

This statement alone brings me a supernova of self-examination.

And all of this is tied to our losing of the sound doctrine of faith and being negatively influenced by the age that **listens with its eyes and thinks with its feelings.**

Are we losing not only our sound doctrine on worship but at its root ***are we losing our sense of the true God, and worse, are we losing God?***

Brothers and sisters, Sound Doctrine can reFuel our Worship.

4. Sound Doctrine Can Equip our Witness.

What is evangelism? In this day and age, do we even know the answer to this anymore?

Based on Scripture **a good definition of evangelism is us telling others the truth about God, about our sin, about the long prophetic forecast of Scripture in history that leads all the way to what Christ has now done in history to save sinners; and then this is followed by a humble and compassionate call to others for repentance and trust in what Christ offers to the world by His literal resurrection.**

To do this, we must have our doctrine correct.

Read Acts 17:22-33

Now, when Christians point out these verses it is usually highlighted with how culturally savvy and knowledgeable Paul was of the culture around him. And he was.

But take some notice how much sound doctrine is involved in this message of Paul to the philosophers:

(Snaves is it possible to get this on one slide? Perhaps in two columns?)

The Doctrine of God

- God's Power in Creation as Creator (24)**
- God's Lordship Over all Things (24b)**
- God Beyond Mere Religion (24c)**
- God's Self-Sufficiency (25a)**
- God's Creative Power to Give Life (25b)**

The Doctrine of Humankind

- Humankind Created by God (26a)**

The Doctrine of God

- God's Providential Involvement Over All (26)**
- God's Relational Nature Toward Seekers (27)**

The Doctrine of Humankind

- Humankind in Need of Finding God (26-27)**

The Doctrine of God

- God's Ever Present Personhood (27b-28)**
- God's Mysterious Sustaining of Human Life (28)**
- God's Parental Nature of Us (28b-29)**
- God's Supernatural Existence (29b)**
- God's Desire for All to Turn from Sin (30)**
- God's Final Judgment of All (31a)**
- God's Assurance of Salvation in Christ (31b)**

The Doctrine of Jesus

- Jesus is the Appointed Messiah (31c)**

- Jesus' Physical Resurrection is a Necessity (31d)
- The Doctrine of Humankind
- All People Commanded by God to Repent (32-33)

Sound doctrine equips our witness to the world and can lead others to true salvation in Christ and to a healthy discipleship in Christ.

5. Sound Doctrine Can Preserve our Unity.

Read Ephesians 4:1-6

There are Christian people out there today that say, “Don’t teach doctrine—doctrine divides!”

But the Scripture teaches here that sound doctrine is the ground and motivation for the church’s unity—*unity is actually one of the main goals of sound doctrine.*

Every other month when we have our Member Connect for those wanting to join in a fuller and more accountable fellowship with us in our church, I stress that **We believe our unity as a church is found in the central beliefs that are non-negotiable in Scripture.**

We articulate these doctrinal beliefs through our Statement of Faith that acts as a general guide for all of us church members.

This is in place because of what Ephesians 4 prescribes—and that is a pursuit among us for the preservation of the

unity of the body through the Spirit of God rooted in the shared truths revealed in Scripture that we confess together in our teachings, in our living, in our worshipping and in our serving that now binds us together in seriously profound ways as a church.

Take these essential-God-revealed-doctrines away and our motivation for unity will dissipate and our unity as a church becomes more and more fractured and fumbling.

Eternal truths and eternal matters unite us, while worldly aims and worldly affairs can divide us.

We must look to the doctrine, we must look to the sound doctrine, more than we ever have—because there is still much to be gained from them as await our Christ from heaven.

Doctrine—What can we gain?

It can deepen our love, increase our holiness, fuel our worship, equip our witness, and preserve our unity.

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Doctrine — What Can We Gain From It?

I Timothy 1:3-7

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which we must know, guard, live
and share.

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church in the world.

1. Sound Doctrine Can Deepen our Love.

trine,⁴ nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies, which promote speculations rather than the stewardship¹ from God that is by faith. ⁵The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. ⁶Certain persons, by swerving from these, have wandered away into vain discussion,⁷ desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make confident assertions.

⁸Now we know that the good is

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