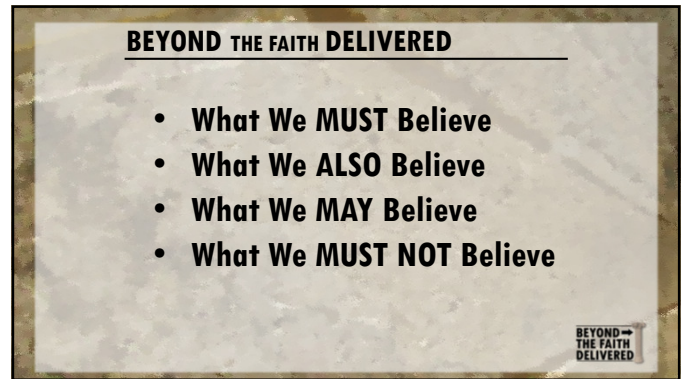
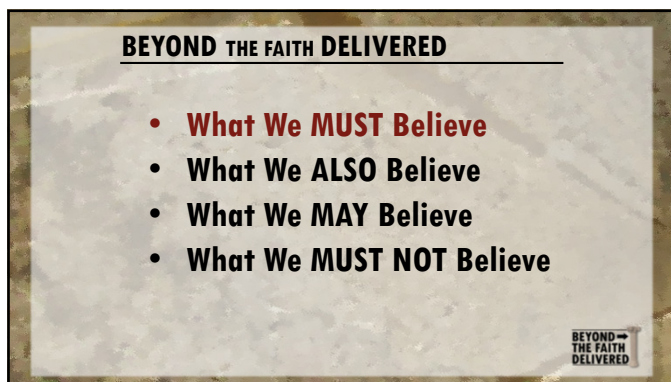




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BEYOND THE FAITH DELIVERED



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BEYOND THE FAITH DELIVERED

What Is ORTHODOXY?

- The “correct opinion” on fundamental matters of the faith for which no other opinion can be accepted
- The “sine qua non” of the Christian faith, without which Christianity is not Christianity
- Rule of thumb: “that which has been believed everywhere, always, and by all”

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What Is ORTHODOXY?

1. The Triune God as Creator and Redeemer
2. The Fall and Resulting Depravity
3. The Person and Work of Christ
4. Salvation by Grace through Faith
5. Inspiration and Authority of Scripture
6. The Redeemed Incorporated into Christ
7. Restoration of Creation

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1. The Triune God as Creator and Redeemer

God is Trinity—one divine essence in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. All things have been created and will be redeemed from the Father, through the Son, and by the Spirit

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2. The Fall and Resulting Depravity

Due to the disobedience of the first man and woman, all humanity and creation fell into a state of depravity, unable to save themselves.

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3. The Person and Work of Christ

The eternal Son of God became incarnate through the Virgin Mary and was born Jesus Christ, fully God and fully human, two distinct natures in one unique person. He died as a holy substitute for sinners, rose victoriously from the dead, ascended into heaven, and will come again as Judge and King.

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BEYOND THE FAITH DELIVERED**4. Salvation by Grace through Faith**

Because of humanity's depravity, people are unable to save themselves. Therefore, grace is absolutely essential to salvation, resulting in faith in God and eternal life.

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BEYOND THE FAITH DELIVERED**5. Inspiration and Authority of Scripture**

The Holy Spirit moved the prophets and apostles to compose the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, the inspired, inerrant, authoritative norm for the Christian faith.

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BEYOND THE FAITH DELIVERED**6. Redeemed Humanity Incorporated into Christ**

The church is Christ's body of elect, redeemed, baptized saints who by faith partake of the life and communion with God through Jesus Christ in the new community of the Spirit.

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BEYOND THE FAITH DELIVERED**7. Restoration of Creation**

One day, Jesus Christ will return to earth as Judge and King. All humanity will be resurrected bodily—those saved by Christ unto everlasting blessing, the wicked unto everlasting condemnation. The physical creation itself will also be renewed, and sin, death, and evil will be eternally vanquished.

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"Now in the universal church itself we take the greatest care to hold that which has been believed everywhere, always, and by all; that is truly and properly universal."

Vincent of Lerins, *Commonitorium* 2.18 (434 CE)

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THE CORE MAY NOT
CONTRACT.

No central doctrines
may be rejected.
EVERYWHERE, ALWAYS, BY ALL.
No doctrinal opinions
may be centralized.

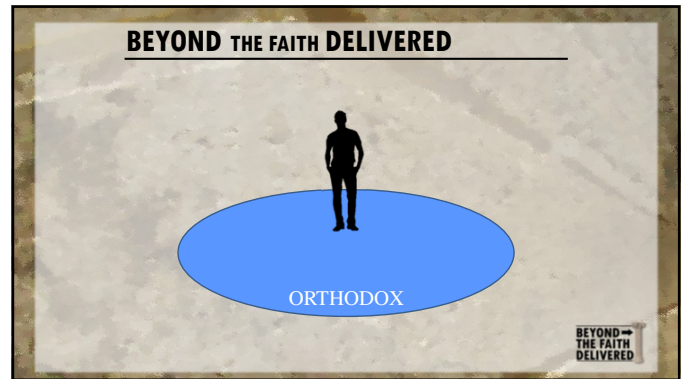
THE CORE MAY
NOT EXPAND.

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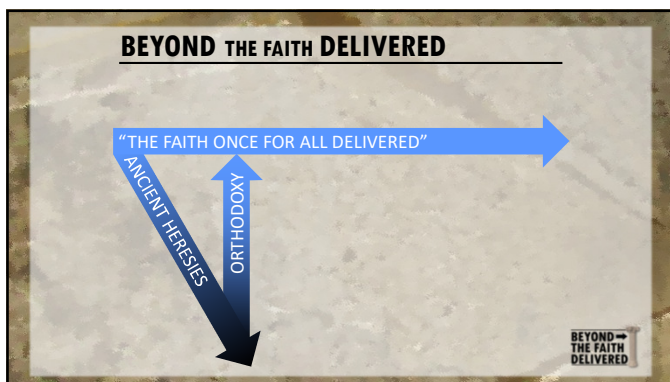
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BEYOND THE FAITH DELIVERED

DEFENDING THE DOCTRINE OF THE TRINITY

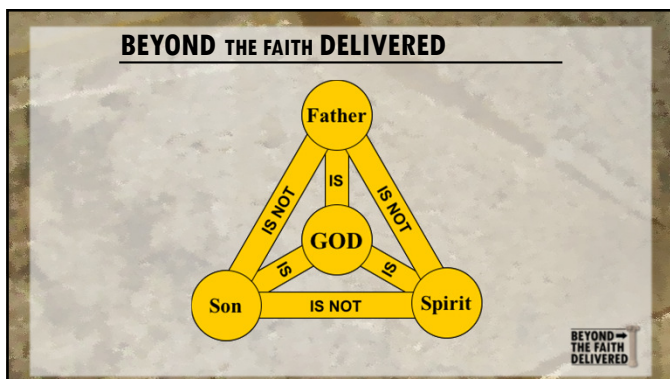
1	Nicaea	325	Arianism
2	Constantinople	381	Arianism Apollinarianism

DEFENDING THE PERSON AND WORK OF CHRIST

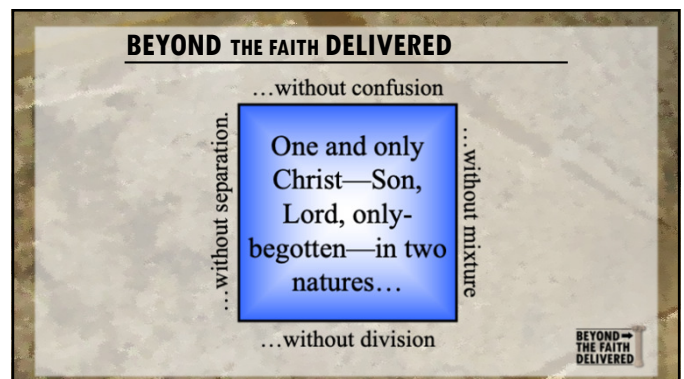
3	Ephesus	431	Nestorianism Pelagianism
4	Chalcedon	451	Eutychianism Monophysitism

BEYOND THE FAITH DELIVERED

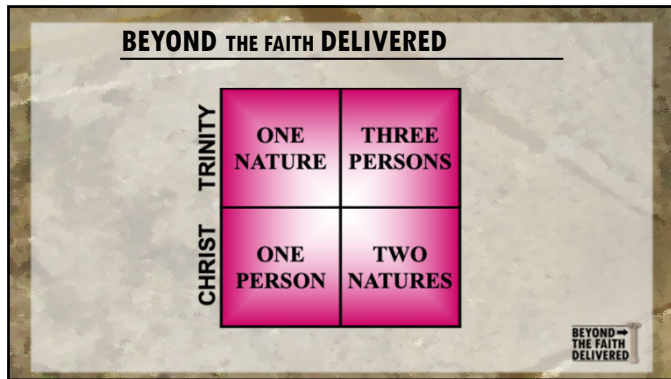
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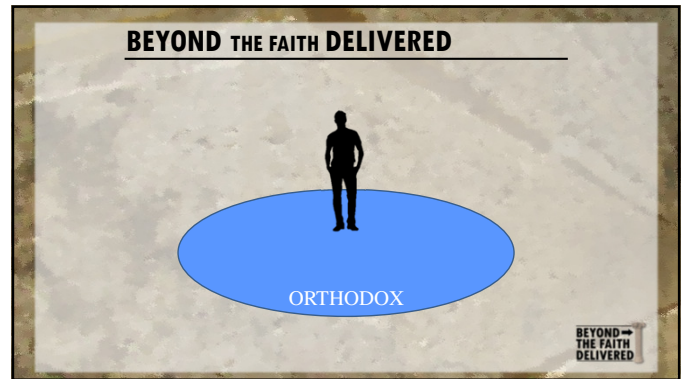
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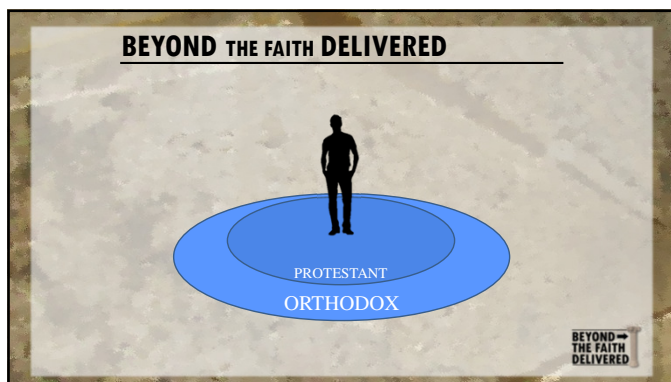
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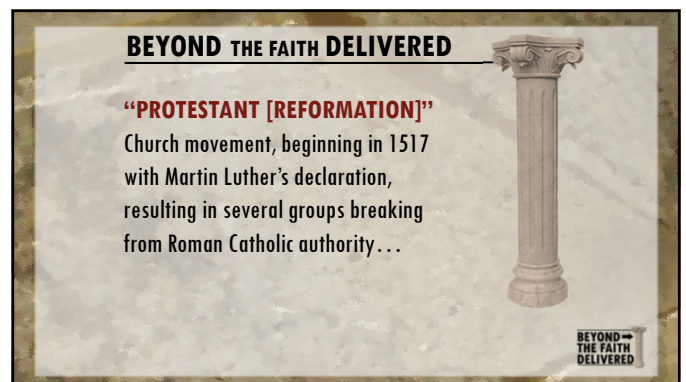
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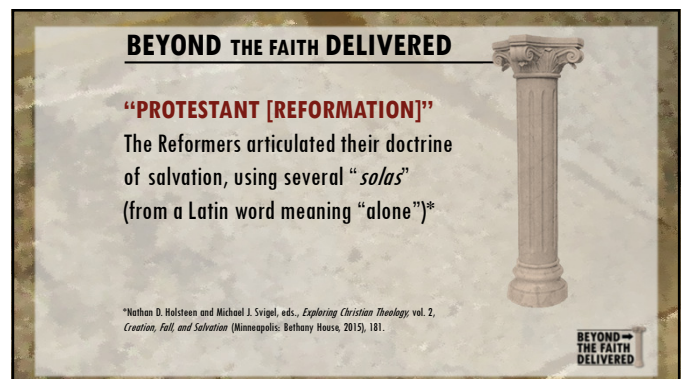
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BEYOND THE FAITH DELIVERED

SOLA SCRIPTURA—Definition

Not popes nor pastors, councils nor creeds, feelings nor opinions, teachers nor scholars, preachers nor politicians, can correct the teachings of Scripture. Rather, *Scripture alone* is the only divinely inspired authority for faith and practice, containing all things necessary for salvation and sanctification. It is the final authority in matters of faith and practice.

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SOLA GRATIA—Definition

Salvation, from beginning to end is not by human merit, good works, personal piety, or our best efforts; salvation is by *grace alone*—from God's provision of the person and work of the Son to the sending of the life-giving Spirit, to the revelation of the gospel, to our past justification, to our ongoing sanctification, and to our future glorification.

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SOLA FIDE—Definition

The free gift of salvation is received not through meritorious works, church sacraments, cooperative attitudes or actions, or a universal application of the grace of God. Salvation is through *faith alone* in the gospel of the person and work of Jesus Christ.

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SOLUS CHRISTUS—Definition

Salvation is in, by, and through *Christ alone*, not in any "one true" church, not by any other means or channel, and not through some other mediator. Christ's incarnate person and atoning work accomplished for us and in our place everything necessary for salvation, sanctification, and glorification.

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SOLI DEO GLORIA—Definition

Because salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone, all *glory is to God alone* for what he has done from beginning to end. We can take no credit for our salvation, sanctification, and glorification. God alone deserves all praise and honor and thanks.

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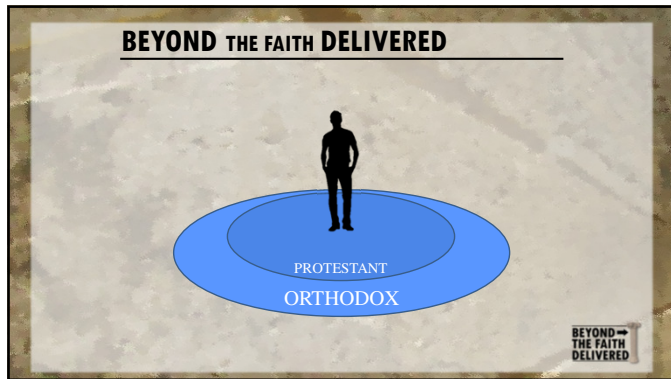
BEYOND THE FAITH DELIVERED

"THE FAITH ONCE FOR ALL DELIVERED"

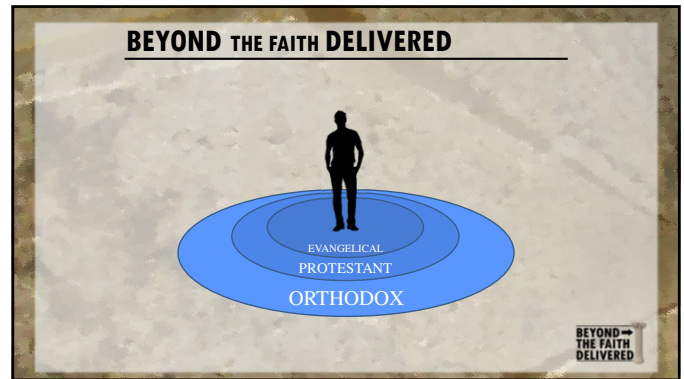


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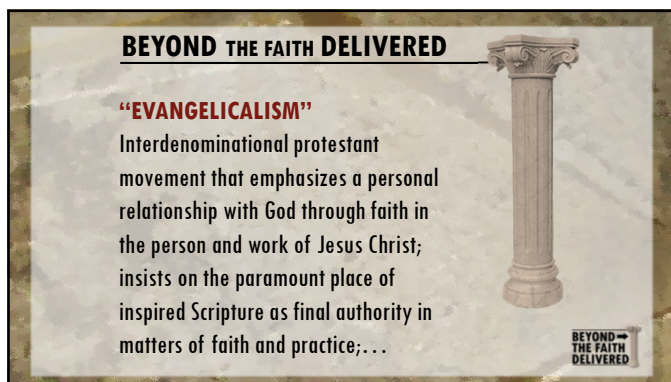
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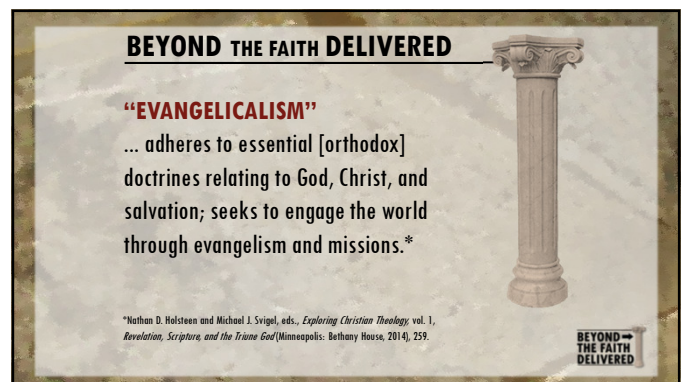
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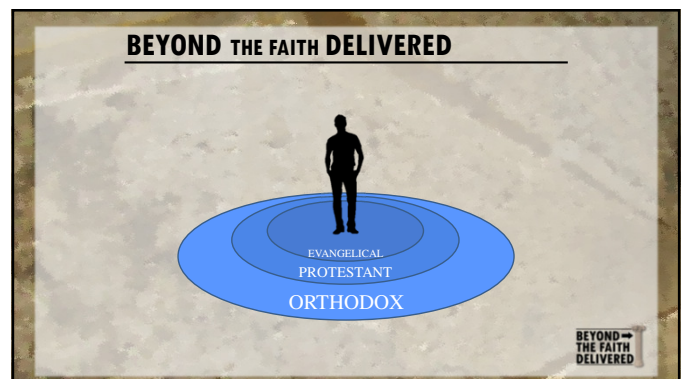


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BEYOND THE FAITH DELIVERED

CONSERVATIVE THEOLOGY	LIBERAL THEOLOGY
• God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who reveals Himself to us • Christianity is faith and love toward God and others • Scripture is the inspired Word of God • Salvation is redemption from sin, holy living, and resurrection • Mission is making disciples by evangelism and teaching	• God is love, who is discovered by reason or experience • Christianity is ethics and social or cultural progress • Scripture is meaningful mythology • Salvation is personal morality, cultural change, and maybe eternal reward • Mission is social and political action, transforming society

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BEYOND THE FAITH DELIVERED

- **What We MUST Believe**
- **What We ALSO Believe**
- **What We MAY Believe**
- **What We MUST NOT Believe**

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BEYOND THE FAITH DELIVERED

- **What We MUST Believe**
- **What We ALSO Believe**
- **What We MAY Believe**
- **What We MUST NOT Believe**

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BEYOND THE FAITH DELIVERED



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What Is HERESY?

- **The conscious, willful, and stubborn rejection of orthodoxy**
- **The departure from fundamental matters in ways that destroy the faith once for all delivered to the saints**
- **Heresy is "damnable doctrine," evidence that a person is simply not a Christian**

BEYOND
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DELIVERED

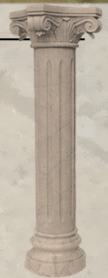
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BEYOND THE FAITH DELIVERED

THE CENTER: The person and work of Christ in His first and second coming.

THE STORY: The Trinitarian creation and redemption narrative.

THE STANDARDS: The classic doctrinal boundaries within which Christians think and act.



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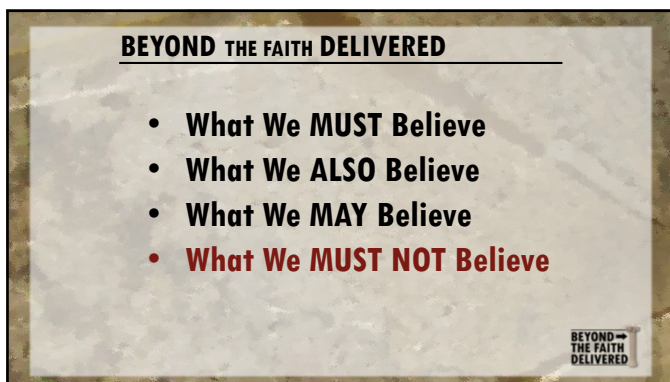
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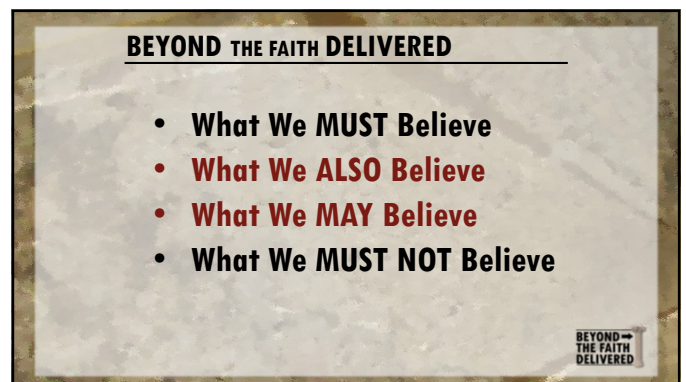
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BEYOND THE FAITH DELIVERED

What Are HETERODOXIES?

- “Other opinions” on non-foundational matters, for which diversity and change have been the norm
- Heterodoxy can range from harmless to dangerous, bordering heresy
- If heterodoxy is exaggerated, centralized, or dogmatized, it becomes destructive
- Sometimes called “theologoumena”

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BEYOND THE FAITH DELIVERED

DOGMA

DOCTRINE

OPINION

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BEYOND THE FAITH DELIVERED

PRIMARY

SECONDARY

TERTIARY

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CREEDAL

CONFESSIONAL

PERSONAL

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ESSENTIAL FOR
SPIRITUAL LIFE

IMPORTANT FOR
SPIRITUAL HEALTH

HELPFUL FOR
SYSTEMATIZING

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BEYOND THE FAITH DELIVERED

Blowin' in the Wind

written in sand

Printed on Paper

CARVED IN WOOD

ETCHED ON STONE

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Blown in the Wind	Identity of 2 Witnesses
written in sand	Meaning of "666"
Printed on Paper	Rapture View
CARVED IN WOOD	Millennial View
ETCHED ON STONE	Bodily Resurrection

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BEYOND THE FAITH DELIVERED

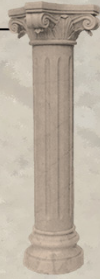
Blown in the Wind	How to Do Communion
written in sand	When to Do Communion
Printed on Paper	Frequency of Communion
CARVED IN WOOD	Nature of Communion
ETCHED ON STONE	Observing Communion

BEYOND
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BEYOND THE FAITH DELIVERED

- Who are our allies with whom we cooperate?
- Who are our opponents with whom we contend?
- Are our disagreements with other traditions substantial or just circumstantial?

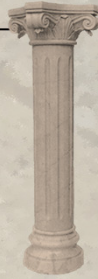


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- How much latitude can we have within our own church family?
- What things do we have in common with other traditions?
- In what things do we actually differ?

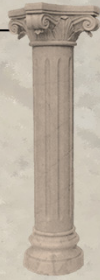


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- If my friend or family member were to join a different tradition, how concerned should I be?
- When I meet somebody from a different tradition, how do I respond?



BEYOND
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BEYOND THE FAITH DELIVERED

- What We **MUST** Believe
- What We **ALSO** Believe
- What We **MAY** Believe
- What We **MUST NOT** Believe

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