

DOCTRINE: ESTABLISHING A PROPER PERSPECTIVE

PRIMARY DOCTRINE

Truth that affects fellowship with others

Definition: Issues on which Scripture is absolutely clear and on which the church should not budge. These are the hills that all Christians should be willing to die on.

Principle: Hold fast to what God holds fast to; be willing to be divisive over these issues.

References: 2 Cor 6:14, 1 Tim 4:1-10, 2 Pet 2:1

GOSPEL

- Sinfulness of man
- Unique nature of Christ
- Substitutionary atonement
- Bodily resurrection
- Justification by faith alone

DOGMA

- Biblical inerrancy and authority
- Bodily return of Christ
- Heaven/Hell
- Trinity
- Universal Church as Bride of Christ

PRACTICE

- Baptism
- Biblical ethics
- Commitment to the local church
- Communion
- Evangelism
- Gender roles
- Giving
- Necessity of prayer
- Sexuality

Titus 1:9

SECONDARY DOCTRINE

Convictions that affect ministry with others

Definition: Issues on which Scripture allows for interpretive differences. These are not typically heretical, yet they can cause divisions and denominational divides.

Principle: Take a stance on these, but keep fellowship with believers who disagree.

References: 1 Cor 1:12-13, 11:13, Titus 3:9

- Age of earth
- Bible translations
- Calvinism/Arminianism
- Church government structure
- Church membership
- Corporate worship style
- Covenant Theology/Dispensationalism
- Methods of baptism
- Methods of communion
- Methods of evangelism
- Methods of giving
- Millennialism
- Ministry qualifications (some)
- Missions strategy
- Rapture
- Sign gifts

Ephesians 4:1-6

DOUBTFUL THINGS

Conscience matters that affect friendships

Definition: Issues on which Scripture leaves up to conscience. They sometimes affect the spiritual progress of others, so believers' actions should be adjusted accordingly.

Principle: Obey your God-given conscience, don't cause others to stumble, and be wise.

References: Acts 15:1-35, Rom 14:1, 1 Cor 8:9

- Alcohol
- Clothes
- Contextualization
- Food
- Hobbies
- Holidays
- Mission field
- Music and other media
- Personal appearance
- Personal finances
- Personality
- Politics
- Schooling
- Tobacco
- Social networks
- Tattoos

Romans 14:23