



FIRST BAPTIST
MERIDIANVILLE
REAL. FAMILY.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

THE
BAPTIST
FAITH &
MESSAGE
2000

Session 1 – The Importance of Doctrine

What is Doctrine?

○ The English word, “doctrine,” comes from the Latin word *doctrina*. Greek- διδαχή, *didaché*

- It can be defined as, “teaching or instruction.”
Christian doctrine simply means the beliefs of Christians.

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Why Study Doctrine?

Objections:

- “I don’t need theology. Just give me Jesus!”
- “No creed but Christ.”
- “Deeds, not creeds.”
- “Christianity is a life, not a doctrine.”

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“You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine”
(Titus 2:1)

If we view the Christian life as one of merely loving Jesus and loving others, at the expense of understanding theological truths, we are ill-equipped to guard the doctrine that has been handed down to us.

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- 11% strongly agree that Jesus was the first creature created by God,
- 17% believe that the Father is “more divine” than Jesus
- 35% believe the Holy Spirit to be a spiritual force rather than a personal being.

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Christian Doctrine in the Bible

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- There are over 40 New Testament references to Christian doctrine, or Christian teaching.
 - Christian doctrine consists of **the teachings of Jesus Christ**, as found in the four gospels, as well as the **teachings about Jesus Christ**, which are found in the remainder of the New Testament.

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1. The People Were Amazed at Jesus' Doctrine (Matthew 7:28-29)

"And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his **teaching** , for he was **teaching** them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes."

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2. The Source of Jesus' Doctrine Was God the Father (John 7:16-17)

"So Jesus answered them, 'My **teaching** is not mine, but his who sent me. If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the **teaching** is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority.'"

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3. The Early Church Was Devoted to the Apostles' Doctrine (Acts 2:42)

"And they devoted themselves to the **apostles' teaching** and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."

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4. The Apostles Were Ordered by the Religious Authorities Not to Teach Jesus' Doctrine. (Acts 5:27-28)

"And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, saying, 'We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your **teaching**, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us.'"

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5. The Doctrine of the Lord Is the Foundation for Belief in Jesus. (Acts 13:12)

"Then the proconsul believed, when he saw what had occurred, for he was astonished at the **teaching** of the Lord."

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6. Christians Are to Obey the Doctrine of Christ (Romans 6:17,18)

"But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of **teaching** to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness."

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7. Believers Are to Advance in Their Understanding of Jesus' Doctrine (Hebrews 6:1-3)

"Therefore let us leave the **elementary doctrine** of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, and of instruction about washings, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. And this we will do if God permits."

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8a. The Importance of Correct

2 John 9- "Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the **teaching** of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the **teaching** has both the Father and the Son."

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8b. The Importance of Correct

2 Timothy 4:1-3 - "I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure **sound teaching**, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions.

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9. We Are to Know Biblical Doctrine in Order to Avoid False Doctrine. Romans 16:17

“I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the **doctrine** that you have been taught; avoid them.”

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10. The Source of All Error—Wrong Doctrine (Matthew 22:29)

But Jesus answered them, “You are wrong, because you **know** neither the Scriptures nor the power of God.”

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Conclusion: Christian Doctrine is Extremely Important

When we get our doctrine right, then all other things will fall into place. On the other hand, if we get our doctrine wrong, then our lives will be affected in a negative way. Therefore, we cannot overemphasize the importance of right belief because this should lead to right living.

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1 Timothy 4:16 "Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching."

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The Practice of Doctrine

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- **Theology** (knowledge of God)
- **Praxology** (purposeful behavior)
 - The integration of theology and praxology emphasizes that belief is not merely an intellectual exercise but is also reflected in actions. True understanding of religious teachings involves applying them to daily life.

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The Practice of Doctrine

- Hear and Keep 38 x's
- Be not hearers only but doers of the Word. James 1



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The Practice of Doctrine

- Discipleship is the process of learning and applying doctrine. **Matthew 28:18-19**
- "And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and **make disciples** of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."

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