

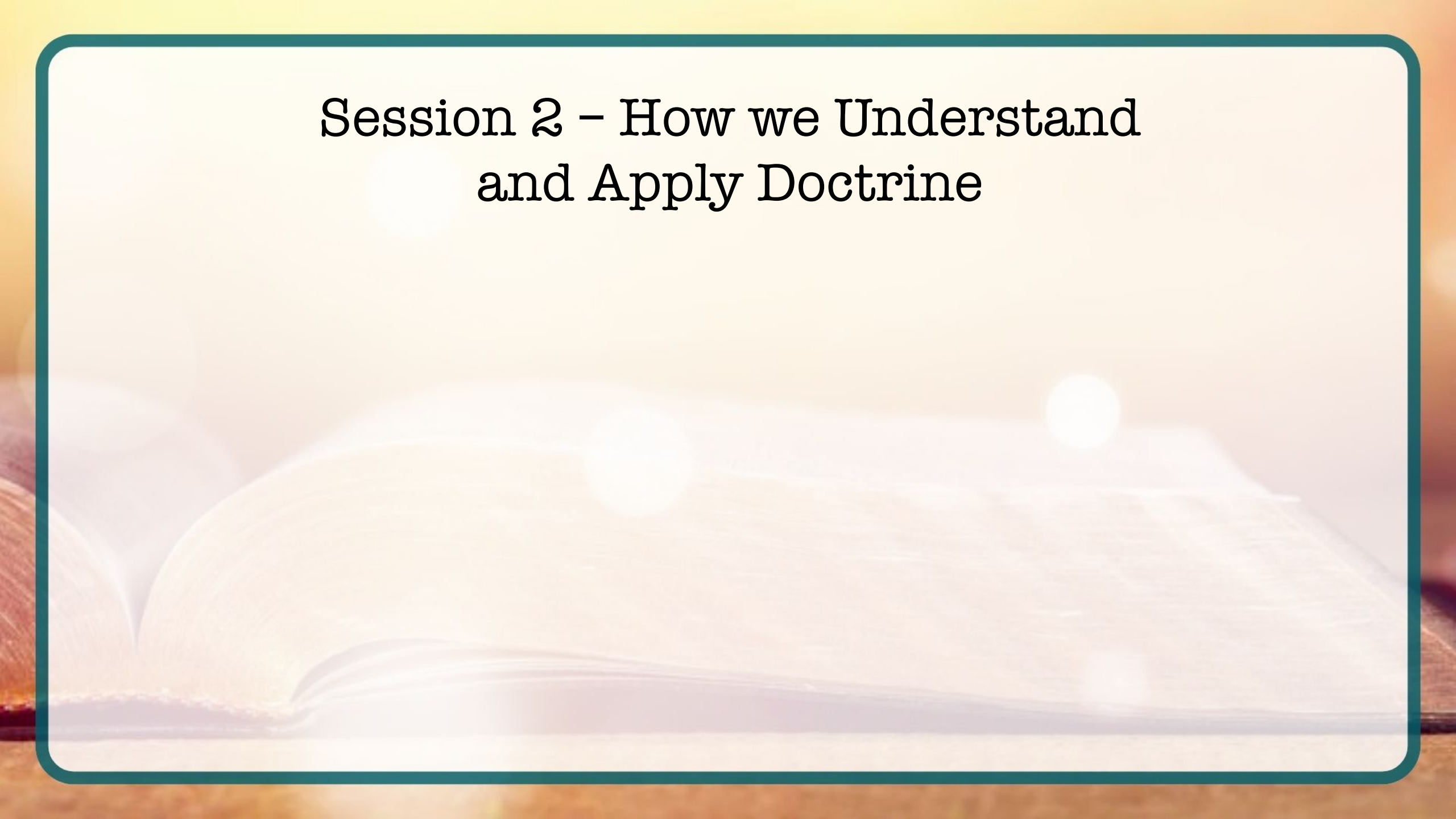


FIRST BAPTIST
MERIDIANVILLE
REAL. FAMILY.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

THE
BAPTIST
FAITH &
MESSAGE
2000

Session 2 – How we Understand and Apply Doctrine





Session 2 – How we Understand and Apply Doctrine

Doctrine is important, but is all
doctrine equally important or clear?

Session 2 – How we Understand and Apply Doctrine

Extreme Positions

Theological Liberalism- All Doctrine is relative
and should not cause division.

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Extreme Positions

Theological Liberalism- All Doctrine is relative and should not cause division.

Fundamentalism / Cults- All Doctrine is absolute and any deviation from my interpretation is heretical.

Can someone be saved if they believe...

Jesus did not physically raise from the Dead.

Creation was not a literal six 24 hour days.

Infants should be baptized.

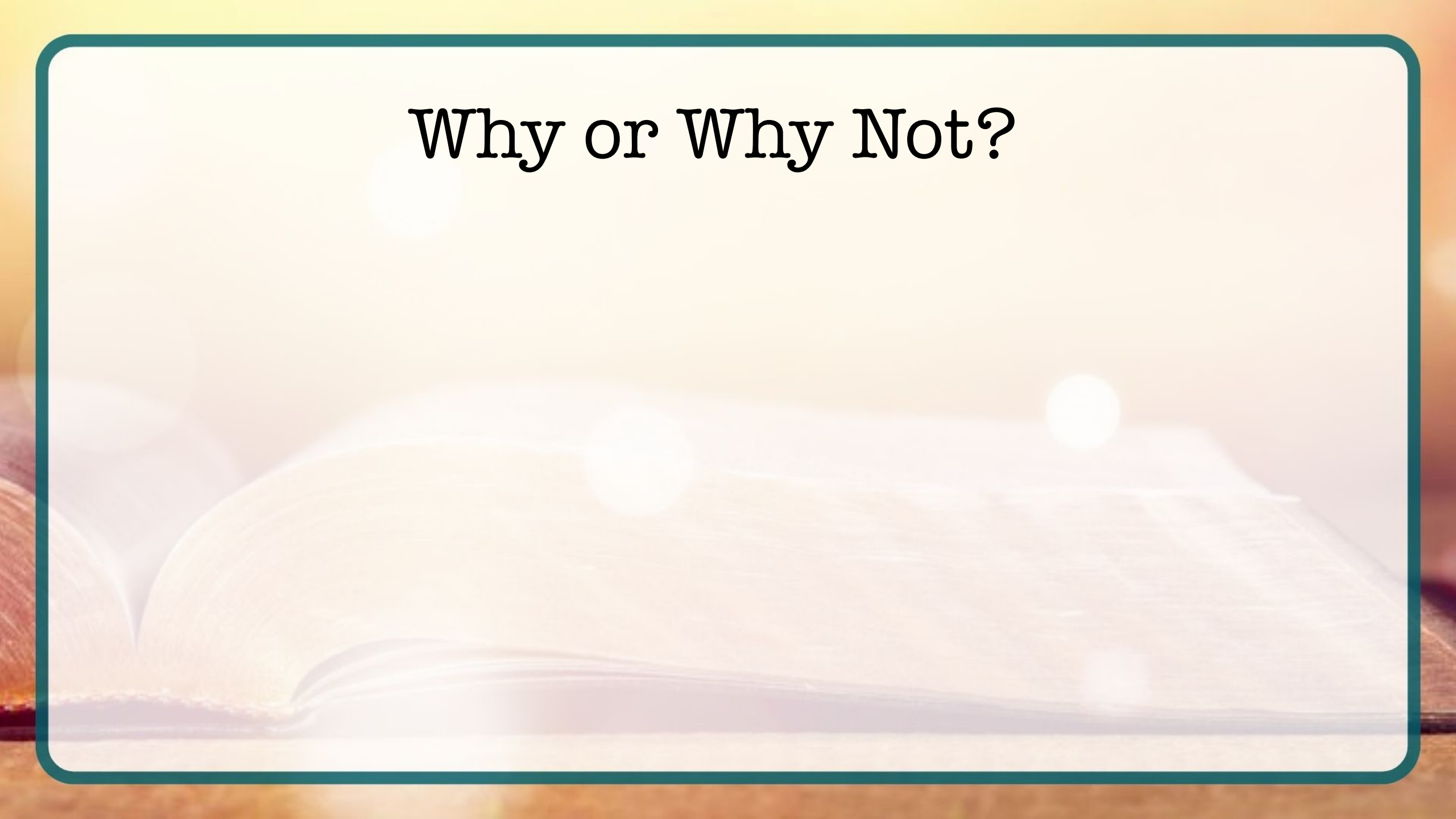
God Judges us for eternity based on our works.

Women should have their heads covered.

Worship should not include instrumentation.

They can be saved from reading the NIV

Why or Why Not?



Why or Why Not?

Theological Triage



Triage

Triage (to sort) – to conduct a preliminary assessment of (patients or casualties) in order to determine the urgency of their need for treatment and the nature of treatment required.



Theological Triage

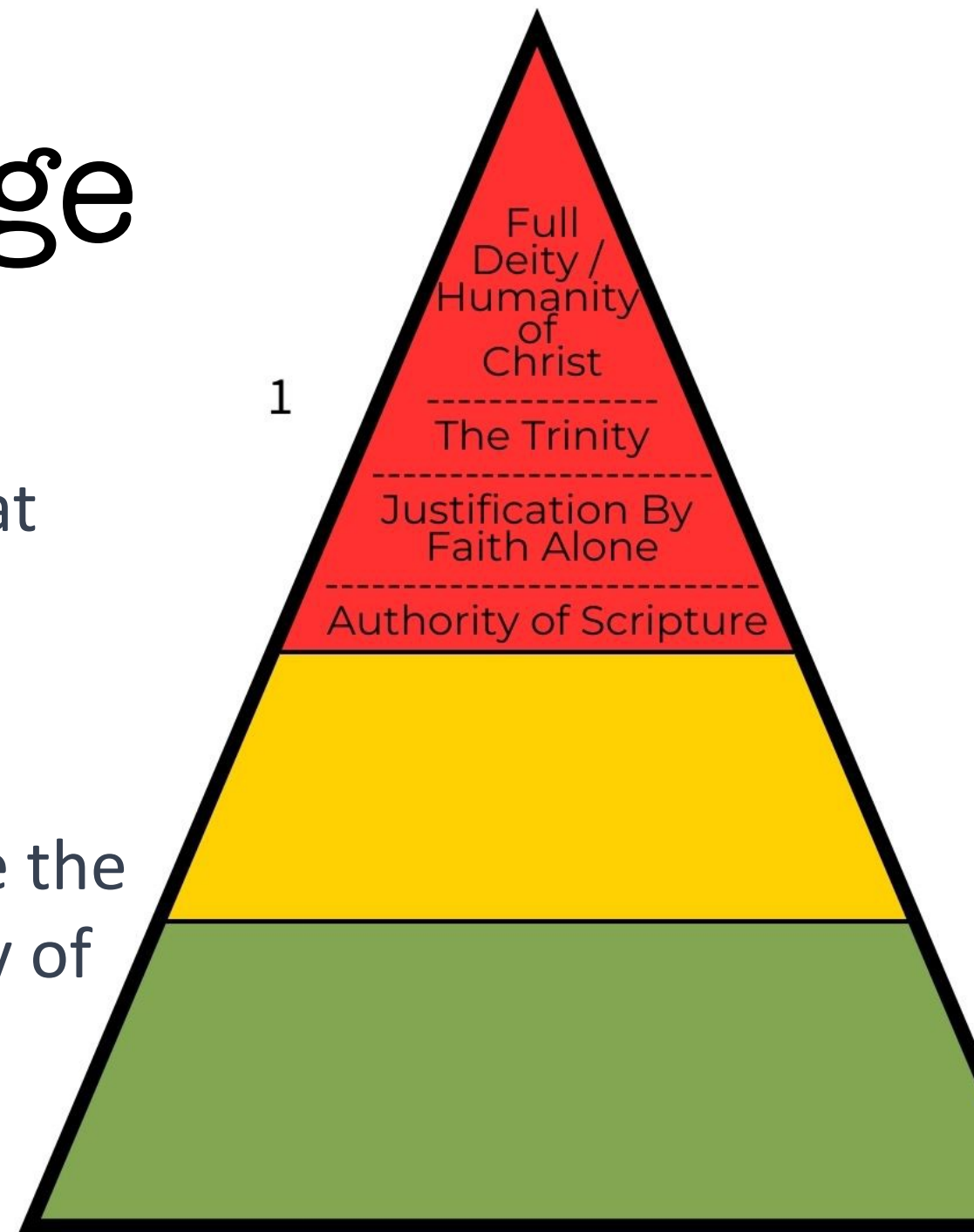
Theological Triage- A method of applying biblical prioritizes and clarifications to categorize theological doctrines based on their significance and importance.

Theological Triage

First-order doctrines (Primary Issues):

These are core, foundational beliefs that are essential to the Christian faith.

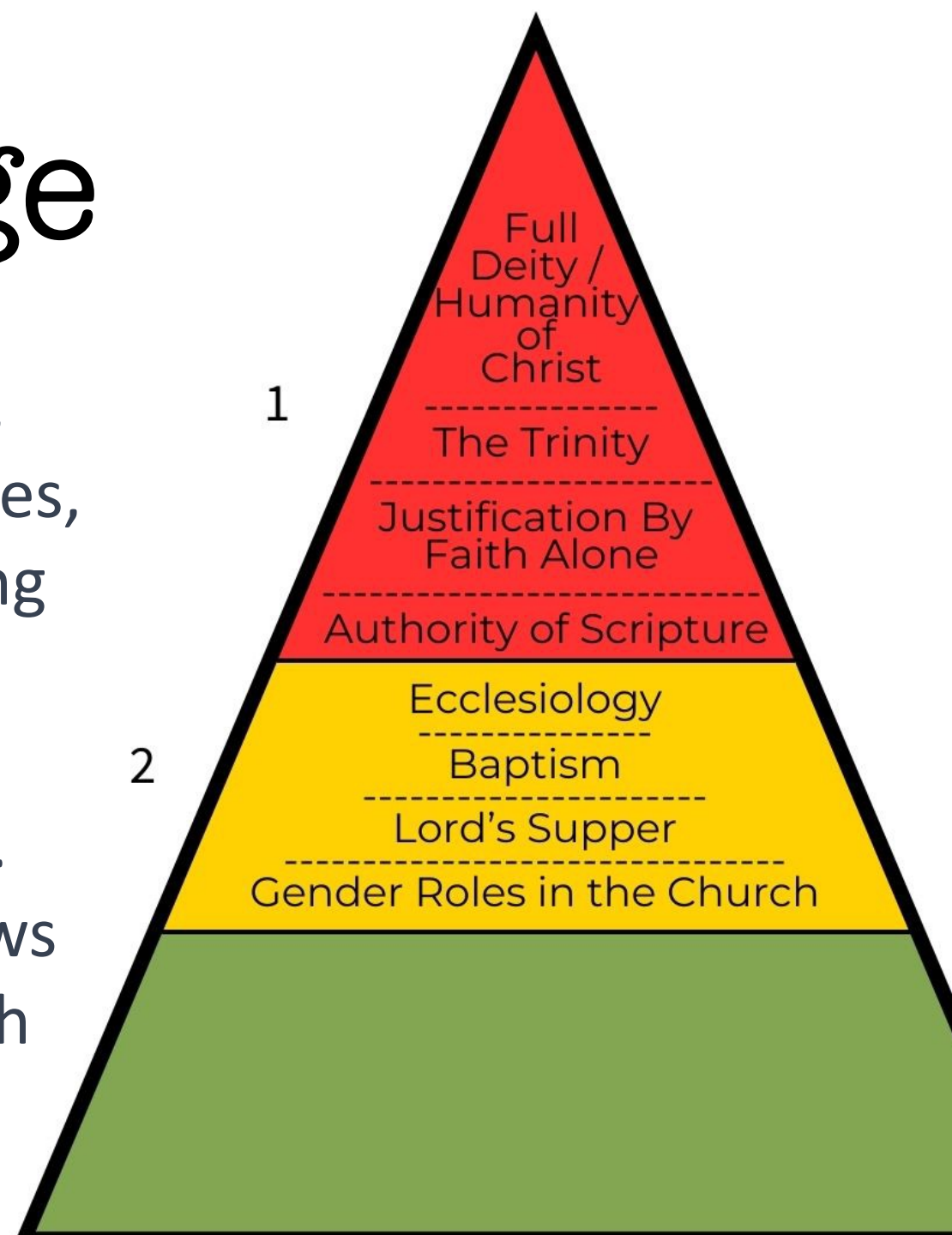
Disagreement on these doctrines often results in a significant departure from orthodox Christianity. Examples include the deity of Christ, the Trinity, the authority of Scripture, and the resurrection.



Theological Triage

Second-order doctrines (Secondary Issues)

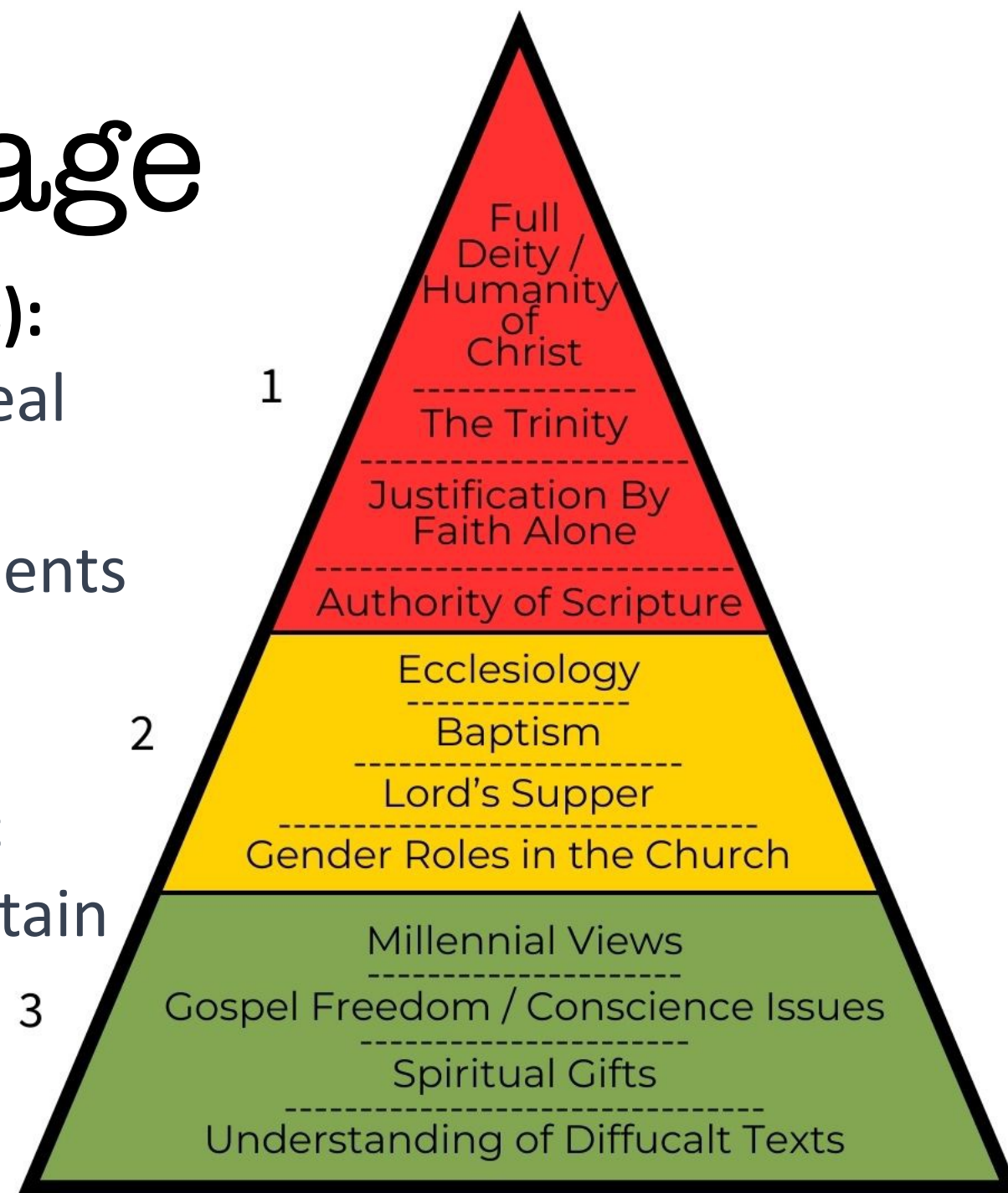
These are important beliefs that, while not as central as first-order doctrines, still significantly impact the understanding and practice of the faith. Differences on these issues can lead to distinct denominational or theological traditions. Examples include modes of baptism, views on the Lord's Supper, and forms of church government.



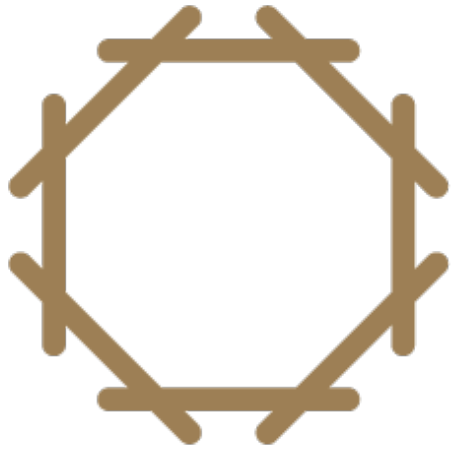
Theological Triage

Third-order doctrines (Tertiary Issues):

These are less essential beliefs that deal with matters of personal conviction, practice, or interpretation. Disagreements on these issues typically allow for a broader diversity within the Christian community. Examples include specific views on eschatology (end times), certain spiritual gifts, and particular worship practices.



Doctrinal Tiers



KNOWING JESUS
MINISTRIES



Doctrinal Tiers

Tier 1: Defines Our Faith

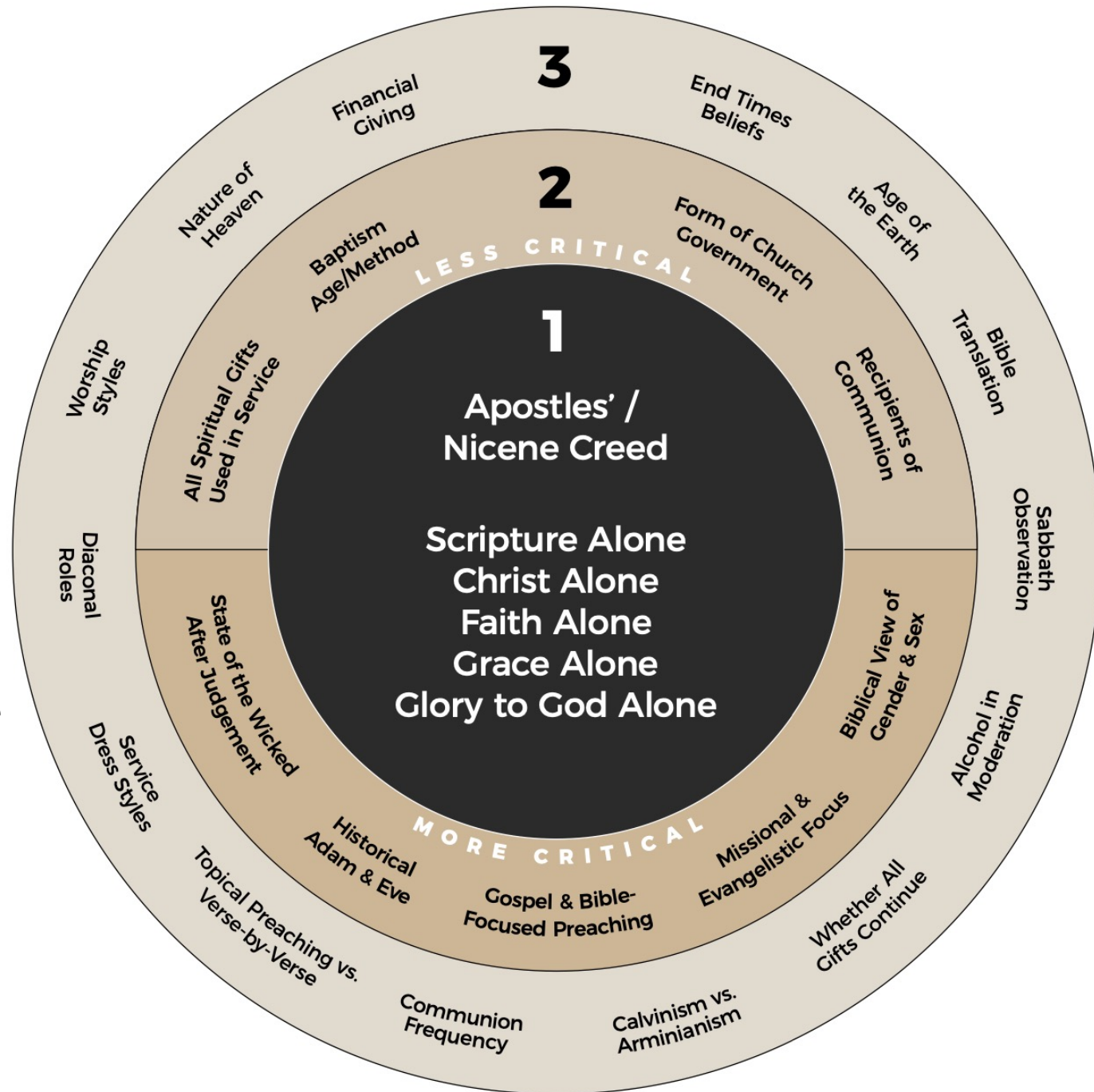
These doctrines are critical to the Christian faith and the basis of the creeds to which we hold.

Tier 2: Defines Our Fellowship

These doctrines are important, but do not define whether a person is a Christian. Differences in these doctrines are a primary reason for Christian denominations. Within Tier 2, some doctrines are more critical to the health of a church than others.

Tier 3: Defines Our Friendly Disagreements

These doctrines may be discussed and debated within a local body but shouldn't impact our ability to worship in unity.





Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended to the dead.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy universal church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

5 Solas

The Truth is found in *Sola Scriptura*, Scripture Alone. God's Word is the only inerrant, sufficient, and final authority for the church.

Our salvation is in *Sola Gratia*, Grace Alone. Our salvation, from beginning to end, is solely by grace.

Our reward in Christ is received by *Sola Fide*, Faith Alone. The redemption Christ has accomplished is received only by faith.

Our hope is in *Solus Christus*, Christ Alone. The ungodly are justified in God's sight through Jesus' finished work. Christ is our only hope!

Our response to this gift of salvation is *Soli Deo Gloria*. Glory to God alone!

Tier 2: Defines Our Fellowship

More Critical

State of the Wicked After Judgment

After the final judgment, will non-believers suffer in Hell for eternity, or will they cease to exist (i.e., Annihilationism)?

Historical Adam & Eve

Are Adam and Eve historically the first two human beings, or are they figurative representatives of the first people?

Gospel & Bible-Focused Preaching

Does the church derive its teaching from scripture with a focus on Christ, or is the teaching driven by cultural and social topics?

Missional & Evangelistic Focus

Is the church focused solely on local ministry and personal spiritual growth, or does it seek to share the Gospel, particularly with the unreached?

Biblical View of Gender & Sex

Is God's design for gender innately connected with biological / genetic characteristics from birth (i.e., male or female)? Is God's design for sex solely within the marriage of one man and one woman? How important are the Biblical qualifications for pastor or elder when it comes to gender and sex (being the husband of one wife)?

Less Critical

All Spiritual Gifts Used in Services

Should Christians who believe they have the gifts of tongues, healing, or prophecy use those gifts in a church service or other corporate gatherings?

Baptism Age / Method

Should baptism be reserved for those who have professed faith in Christ or also administered to the children of believers? Is baptism most properly administered by immersion, sprinkling, or pouring?

Form of Church Government

Should churches be led by a group of elders, pastors, or through congregational voting? Should churches be closely aligned with a denomination, loosely aligned, or should each church be independent?

Recipients of Communion

Should communion only be administered to members of a particular local church, members of any church, open to any who claim to be a believer in Christ, or available to unbelievers?



Tier 3: Defines Our Friendly Disagreements

End Times Beliefs

Will believers be raptured before the tribulation? What is the actual meaning and duration of the Millennial Kingdom? Will Christ return before or after that Kingdom is established?

Age of the Earth

Is the Earth young (thousands of years old) or old (billions of years old)?

Bible Translation

Which Bible translation should Christians use of the many available (e.g., ESV, NASB, KJV)?

Sabbath Observation

Should Christians gather for corporate worship on Sundays or are other days of the week Biblical? How different should the Sabbath look in the weekly life of a Christian vs. other days?

Alcohol in Moderation

Can a Christian consume alcohol in moderation, or should they abstain from drinking?

Whether All Gifts Continue

Do all spiritual gifts listed in the New Testament continue today, or were the gifts of Tongues, Prophecy, and Healing specific to apostolic times in the early church?

Calvinism vs. Arminianism

For example, are people incapable of faith in Christ on their own and in need of the Holy Spirit to renew their hearts before they can believe (Calvinism)? Or can a person choose to believe, after which the Holy Spirit enters their heart (Arminianism)?

Communion Frequency

Should churches administer communion every Sunday, monthly, or with some other frequency?

Topical Preaching or Verse-by-Verse

Should churches teach through scripture, verse-by-verse, or teach topically (such as a series on prayer or missions)?

Service Dress Styles

Should believers dress up for church or wear more casual clothes?

Diaconal Roles

To what degree should deacons be involved in church leadership, and should the deacons include both men and women (deaconesses)?

Worship Styles

Should worship include ancient hymns, current songs, or music with no instruments at all?

Nature of Heaven

What will we know and do in heaven, and what will heaven be like vs. the new heavens & new earth once Christ returns?

Financial Giving

Are Christians commanded to give 10% or are other amounts allowable?

**"IN ESSENTIALS,
UNITY;
IN NON-ESSENTIALS,
LIBERTY;
IN ALL THINGS,
CHARITY."**

IN ESSENTIALS UNITY

1 Corinthians 12:12–13

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

IN NON-ESSENTIALS LIBERTY

Romans 14

"So then each of us will give an account of himself to God. Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother. I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself, but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean." v.12-14

IN ALL THINGS CHARITY

Colossians 3:14

"And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony."

John 13:35

"By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."