

**Establishing Biblical Doctrine**

**Lesson Two**

**Hebrews 5:11-14, 6:1-6 (NLT)**

**11**There is much more we would like to say about this, but it is difficult to explain, especially since you are **spiritually dull and don’t seem to listen.** **12**You have been believers so long now that you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you need someone to teach you again **the basic things about God’s word.** You are like babies who need milk and cannot eat solid food. **13**For someone who lives on milk is still an infant and doesn’t know how to do what is right. **14**Solid food is for those who are mature, who through training have the skill to recognize the difference between right and wrong.

**6**So let us stop going over the basic teachings about Christ again and again. Let us go on instead and become mature in our understanding. Surely we don’t need to start again with the fundamental importance of repenting from evil deeds and placing our faith in God. **2**You don’t need further instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. **3**And so, God willing, we will move forward to further understanding.

**4**For it is impossible to bring back to repentance those who were once enlightened—those who have experienced the good things of heaven and shared in the Holy Spirit, **5**who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the power of the age to come— **6**and who then turn away from God. It is impossible to bring such people back to repentance; by rejecting the Son of God, they themselves are nailing him to the cross once again and holding him up to public shame.

As we talk about “Doctrine” there are some points that we must adhere to and this is absolutely essential. Have you ever wondered why there are so many different Christian denominations? It is because most of them tend to major on certain doctrinal aspects of the Word of God. Some of these denominations are extremely dogmatic about what they believe. Some even believe if you are not a member of their church, you are not a true believer!

Some “doctrinal mindsets” like Calvinism, or the “reformed theology” and even Arminanism, which is basically the opposite of Calvinism can both get too extreme in their doctrinal beliefs.

John McArthur, a very well-known Christian “minister” is teaching that if anyone does not believe in the reformed theology, if they have any kind of experiential relationship with Christ or if they even worship in one of the modern worship services which are in most of our churches in this country, then you have blasphemed the Holy Spirit and you will be eternally separated from God! [1]

All I have to do is go to Youtube on the Internet and I see people criticizing ministers who I admire deeply and some will talk about how evil the “Word of Faith” movement is.

I grew up Baptist and I love the Baptist and how they are so adamant about Missions! Personally, I don’t feel like they go far enough though, when it comes to seeing the POWER of God in their churches. I got into Charismatic or Word of Faith Churches many years ago and I thank God for the teaching I received from them! Sure, there are some “Word of Faith” or “Charismatic” ministers that I won’t listen to because I don’t agree with what they teach but there are Baptist ministers that I feel the same way about. Let’s look at each one of these people and what they teach individually and not collectively because they may be bunched up in a group with a certain name!

There have been ministers in any and all of these “movements”, if you will, that have gone too far with some doctrine and some have not gone far enough. We all are human and can easily make mistakes too!

We need to stop labeling each other and just be Christians!

Dictionary dot com defines DOCTRINE as:

***“a particular principle, position, or policy taught or advocated,  as of a religion or government:”***

I appreciate all of you and I appreciate your opinions. Everyone has his or her opinion on matters but when it comes to establishing Biblical doctrine, that is not necessarily a good thing.

We all come from different backgrounds. We grew up in different places, in different households with different cultures. Some of you even grew up with different kinds of spiritual backgrounds. Some of you may have grown up in a Baptist church. Some of you may have grown up as a Catholic, a Charismatic, a Mormon or even a Jehovah’s Witness.

All of our life experiences are different. We may all differ slightly or even greatly when it comes to what we believe about many things such as politics, disciplining our children or many other things.

So, when it comes to God’s Word, it is **IMPERITIVE** that we set some ground rules when it comes to establishing Biblical doctrine!

The Bible tells us how we should do this.

1. **The Bible itself is inerrant. It is the ABSOLUTE TRUTH.**
   1. If we do not agree on this, we cannot even start a debate on Biblical doctrine.
   2. The following is the MOST IMPORTANT SCRIPTURE IN THE BIBLE! The entire Bible hinges on this one scripture.

**Numbers 23:19 (NASB)**

"God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent; Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?

* 1. There are some words that were not the best, chosen, translation (in the King James Version and others).
  2. It is important, at times, to check the original Hebrew (in the Old Testament) and the Greek (in the New Testament). This is easily done with several tools that are available to the Christian.
  3. There are no contradictions in the Bible. If we find, what we believe to be a contradiction, we should study and find our exactly what God is saying. What we think may be contradictions are just a lack of understanding on our part.

**2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV)**

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

1. **We MUST use the Bible to ESTABLISH DOCTRINE.**
   1. We **MUST NOT** use **OUR LIFE EXPERIENCE** to determine the validity of scripture.
   2. We **MUST NOT** use **OTHER’S LIFE EXPERIENCE** to determine the validity of scripture.
      1. It is okay to use experience as an example of God’s Word’s faithfulness and truth but we cannot use experience to try and disprove scripture.
      2. For example: ***In your eyes, someone of “great faith”, who believes in healing, dies of sickness. You must not say, “God does not heal because he died and he was believing God for healing.”***

**2 Corinthians 5:7 (ESV)**

For we walk by faith, not by sight.

* 1. Our SPIRIT (the REAL us that connects to God when we are born again) is constantly at war with our SOUL (our sin nature).

**Hebrews 4:12 (NLT)**

For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.

* 1. We **CANNOT** depend upon how we feel about a matter if our “feelings” do not line up with God’s Word!

**Jeremiah 17:9 (NLT)**

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?

* 1. You may be **“very sincere in your belief but be sincerely wrong”** if your beliefs do not line up with God’s Word.
  2. ONLY the Word of God can CUT BETWEEN the SPIRIT and the SOUL!

1. **Doctrine must be established by two or three scriptures.**
   1. It is important not to take one, obscure scripture and make a doctrine out of it.

**2 Corinthians 13:1 (NLT)**

This is the third time I am coming to visit you (and as the Scriptures say, **"The facts of every case must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses").**

* 1. Scriptures must also fit in with the rest of scripture and with the nature of God
  2. We **CAN KNOW** the nature of God, just as we can know the nature of our own earthly father, by studying the WHOLE Word of God!

**John 14:7-11 (NLT)**

If you had really known me, you would know who my Father is. From now on, you do know him and have seen him!" 8Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." 9Jesus replied, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don't know who I am? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father! So why are you asking me to show him to you? 10Don't you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I speak are not my own, but my Father who lives in me does his work through me. 11 Just believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Or at least believe because of the work you have seen me do.

* 1. Because we can **KNOW** God intimately, in **MOST CASES**, we can **KNOW WHAT GOD’S WILL IS!**
     1. It is very rarely necessary to pray, “Lord, if it is your will!”
     2. Many times, when this is prayed, it shows a “lack of knowledge” of God’s Word on the part of the one who is praying.
     3. If you catch yourself using this phrase when you are praying, stop, go back to the Word of God and see if you can find what God’s will is in the matter. Then pray according to God’s will.
  2. Spiritual correction and sin should be dealt with in the same way. BUT this is NOT something you do if you just don’t like what someone is teaching or if you disagree with NON-ESSENTIAL doctrine!

**I had two men who tried to set me up to tell me they didn’t think I should teach the way I do and/or teach the things I was teaching. I let them know that I would always teach ALL the Bible and not leave parts out they didn’t like. Because of that, they felt like they had come to me, as two, and that I was missing God.**

Matthew 18:15-17 (NLT)

**15**“If another believer **sins against you**, go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back. **16**But if you are unsuccessful, take one or two others with you and go back again, so that everything you say may be confirmed by two or three witnesses. **17**If the person still refuses to listen, take your case to the church. Then if he or she won’t accept the church’s decision, treat that person as a pagan or a corrupt tax collector.

1. This is not to be used just because you disagree with someone. **It is to be used if that person SINS!**
2. **The WHOLE Word of God, every scripture, is given to us to teach us and guide us in all we do.**

**2 Timothy 3:16, 17 (ESV)**

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

1. **None of us knows everything and God has not given all truth to any one of us.**
   1. God can speak through all of us and give us insight through all of us.

**2 Peter 1:20, 21 (ESV)**

knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone’s own interpretation. 21 For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

1. **If you share your belief, be prepared to give scripture to back that belief up.**

**1 Peter 3:15 (ESV)**

but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,

1. Just as Paul tells us, if a tongue is uttered in an assembly, there must be someone there to interpret that tongue, we should also give the reasoning (with scripture) as to why we believe as we do.
2. We may all have differing ideas so we should always use scripture to be the basis for our doctrinal thinking.
3. It is okay to disagree but we must be “agreeable” in our disagreement!
4. No one wins if any of us loses our temper in class and gets angry. This is not honoring to God.
5. **Realize that there are ESSENTIAL and NON-ESSENTIAL DOCTRINES.**
   1. We must AGREE on ESSENTIAL DOCTRINE (i.e. the virgin birth of Christ; the death, burial and resurrection of Christ; etc).
   2. We must give grace and liberty if we disagree on NON-ESSENTIAL DOCTRINE (i.e. did Jesus die spiritually; are tongues and interpretation of tongues for today; etc.).
   3. None of us will probably ever agree on everything in the Bible.
   4. Pastor David says that probably none of his staff believe everything like he does and he agrees that, that is a good thing.
   5. One of the things I appreciate about Pastor David is that he allows me to teach what I truly feel like God’s Word teaches and he does not make me omit what he doesn’t believe!

[1] http://www.patheos.com/blogs/adrianwarnock/2013/09/john-macarthur-accuses-half-a-billion-christians-of-blasphemy-against-the-holy-spirit/