

Our Humble Opinion

Doctrines, Fundamental & Indispensable

What is doctrine?

- Strong's Concordance –
Instruction / Learning / A Teaching
- American Heritage Dictionary –
A principle or body of principles presented
for acceptance or belief

What is doctrine?

Matt. 7:28, 29

7:28 And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine:

7:29 For he taught them as [one] having authority, and not as the scribes.

Matt. 16:12 [NIV]

16:12 Then they understood that He did not say to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the [doctrine] of the Pharisees and Sadducees

Rom. 16:17

16:17 Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them

The Importance of Doctrine

- It's the basis of our faith
- We share comfort in a common belief

Jude 20, 21

- It's a way of weeding out those who would seek to do us harm as a group of our Lord's people

Matt. 7:15, 16

Essential for what?

- For making our calling and election sure?
- For fellowship with our brethren?



Stepping outside your comfort zone

The Parable of the Talents

Matt. 25:14 – 29

The Pharisee and the Publican

Luke 18:9 - 13

The Pharisee and the Publican

Luke 18:9 - 14

9 And He also told this parable to some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt:

10 "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

11 "The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: 'God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector.

12 'I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.'

13 "But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, the sinner!'

14 "I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

How do we handle disagreement?

We can't both be right

But we can both be wrong

I Cor. 1:26 – 29

The Blind Men and the Elephant

by John Godfrey Saxe

It was six men of Indostan
To learning much inclined,
Who went to see the Elephant
(Though all of them were blind),
That each by observation
Might satisfy his mind

The First approached the Elephant,
And happening to fall
Against his broad and sturdy side,
At once began to bawl:
“God bless me! But the Elephant
Is very like a wall!”

The Second, feeling of the tusk,
Cried, “Ho! What have we here
So very round and smooth and sharp?
To me ‘tis mighty clear
This wonder of an Elephant
Is very like a spear!”

The Third approached the animal,
And happening to take
The squirming trunk within his hands,
Thus boldly up and spake:
“I see,” quoth he, “the Elephant
Is very like a snake!”

The Blind Men and the Elephant

by John Godfrey Saxe

The Fourth reached out an eager hand
And felt about the knee.

“What most this wondrous beast is like
Is mighty plain,” quoth he;

“’Tis clear enough the Elephant
Is very like a tree!”

The Fifth, who chanced to touch the ear,
Said: “E’en the blindest man
Can tell what this resembles most;
Deny the fact who can
This marvel of an Elephant
Is very like a fan!

The Sixth no sooner had begun
About the beast to grope,

Than, seizing on the swinging tail
That fell within his scope,

“I see,” quoth he, “the Elephant
Is very like a rope!”

And so these men of Indostan
Disputed loud and long,
Each in his own opinion
Exceeding stiff and strong,
Though each was partly in the right,
And all were in the wrong!

To us the scriptures clearly teach:

- The Church is the Temple of the Living God (I Cor. 3:16)
- The Church is a living stone, being continually shaped & polished (I Pet. 2:4 – 6)
- The Ransom (I Tim. 2:5, 6)
- The Call of the Church (Rom. 8:17)
- The Hope of the Kingdom/Resurrection & Restitution (Acts 3:19 – 21)

Doctrines More or Less Important (R. 5284)

- All Men are Sinners (I Cor. 15:22)
- Need for a Ransom / to be Justified (Ps. 51:5)
- The Necessity of Faith (Eph. 2:8)
- Two Salvations (Rev. 20:6)

Other possibilities???

- The Nature of God/Man
- The Permission of Evil
- Character Development (Mal. 3:2, 3)
- Baptism / Consecration
- Trinity / Hell
- Sonship of Christ

Our Responsibility?

- To commit to dialog
- To continually seek the truth
- To *LISTEN*
- To *LISTEN*
- To *LISTEN*

Understanding

Prov 1:5 [NASB]

1:5 A wise man will hear and increase in learning, And a man of understanding will acquire wise counsel,

Eph 4:14-15 [NASB]

4:14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;

4:15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all [aspects] into Him who is the head, [even] Christ,

The Moral of the Story:

So oft in theologic wars,
The disputants, I ween *[believe]*,
Rail on in utter ignorance
Of what each other mean,
And prate about an Elephant
Not one of them has seen!