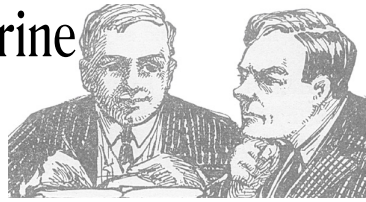


The Importance of Doctrine and True Biblical Love (Part 1)



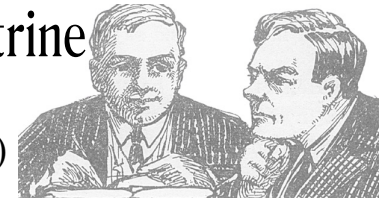
2 Timothy 3:14-4:4

The following dangerous philosophy is held by many evangelicals: “It is sinful to divide the body of Christ by separating ourselves from any Christian over any doctrinal issue. The mark of true orthodoxy is love, not doctrine. Therefore, if we truly love one another, we will not allow doctrines or ordinances to divide us. To win the world for Christ, we must bury our differences and proclaim the essential core of the Gospel in a positive way.” To Biblically refute this erroneous view, consider the following (be sure to look up the verses):

- 1) What place does the Lord give to teaching (doctrine) in the Great Commission (*Matt. 28:19-20*)?
- 2) Did the early church consider doctrine unimportant (*Acts 2:42*)? Remember, we must never have unity at the expense of truth.
- 3) How much of God’s Word should we conform our lives to (*Matt. 4:4*)? Do we have the prerogative to judge which parts of the Bible are important and which parts are not? How much of God’s Word is profitable for the believer (*2 Tim. 3:16-17*)?
- 4) Was the Lord Jesus tolerant towards the Sadducees who differed from Him doctrinally concerning the resurrection (*Matt. 22:23-33*)?
- 5) What place does God’s Word have for the true disciple (*John 8:31-32*)?
- 6) How do we manifest and demonstrate our love for the Lord Jesus (*John 14:21-24; 15:9-10*)? How can a pastor demonstrate that he truly loves the Master (*John 21:15-17; 1 Pet. 5:2*)?
- 7) Is God concerned about doctrinal purity (*Tit. 2:7; 1 Tim. 1:3*)? Should we be concerned when men deviate from sound doctrine (*1 Tim. 6:3-5; 2 Tim. 2:16-18*)?
- 8) How are we to “convict the gainsayers” (*Tit. 1:9*) and why are we to rebuke certain ones sharply (*Tit. 1:13*)? What does Christ think of false doctrine in the church (*Rev. 2:14-16*)?

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org

The Importance of Doctrine and True Biblical Love (Part 2)



Titus 2:1-10

9) According to Ephesians 4:11-16, how is true Christian unity achieved and protected? This unity is based upon “the faith,” that body of truth which is to be believed (*Eph. 4:13*). What is the great danger of neglecting doctrine (*Eph. 4:14*)? What is the relationship between truth and love (*Eph. 4:15*)?

10) If we truly love our fellow believers will we warn them about false doctrine and false teachers (*Acts 20:29-31; Phil. 3:2; Col. 1:28*)?

11) If we truly love someone, will we tell them what they need to hear even if it offends and hurts them (*Mark 10:21*)? Was Paul manifesting love when he wrote Galatians 1:8-9? What does love rejoice in (*1 Cor. 13:6*)? How should our love abound (*Phil. 1:9-10*)?

12) Why do people turn to false teachers (*2 Tim. 4:3*)? Why is it dangerous to reject the truth (*2 Tim. 4:4*)?

13) What was John’s greatest joy (*2 John 3-4*)? For what should we earnestly contend (*Jude 3*)?

In conclusion, doctrine is vital and Biblical love never minimizes the importance of Bible doctrine. If we truly love a person, then we should want that person to be fully exposed to God’s truth so that this person will believe it, embrace it and obey it. True unity can never come at the expense of truth. The only basis for the enjoyment of true Christian unity is a common understanding of and obedience to the Word of God. The more two people understand God’s truth and obey it, the more they will enjoy unity with each another.

The ones who are hindering the cause of Christian unity are those who refuse to stand faithfully and obediently upon the written Word of God. Truth must prevail! Much discernment is needed in these difficult and declining days. May we gladly receive the love of the truth (*2 Thess. 2:10*).

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