

Sound Doctrine

Apostle Paul instructed Titus, “*You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine*”(Titus 2:1) Such a command makes it obvious that sound doctrine is important. The overall teaching of the church contains many elements, but the primary message is explicitly defined: “*Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures [and] he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures*”(1Cor.15:3-4) This is definite good news, and it is of first importance. Change that message and the basis of faith shifts from Christ to something else. Our eternal destiny depends upon hearing “the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation”(Eph.1:3) Becoming a Christian requires turning from sin to God. God changes us at the moment of salvation by imparting new life to us, followed by a lifetime of changing into the image of Jesus Christ.(2Cor.3:18) *let us go on unto perfection, in Christ.*(Heb.6:1) A "perfect" Christian is one who has achieved spiritual maturity. This means his body, soul, and spirit are under the control of the Holy Spirit.

Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. That good thing which was committed to you, keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us.(2Tim.1:13-14) Doctrine is among the things that matter most for the well-being of Christian and the church. Sound doctrine is the foundation of unity in the church. Sound, or healthy, doctrine provides a pattern that, when followed, promotes faith and love. It is a valuable heritage that is to be treasured in this generation and faithfully transmitted to the next generation.

Sound doctrine is important because the gospel is a sacred trust, and we dare not alter with God’s communication to world. Our duty is to deliver the message, not to change it. The gospel which was entrusted to Paul. Paul frequently refers to being given the gospel as a sacred trust from God, his commission to preach the Gospel among the Gentiles is a calling from God. Jude was insistent that the church defend sound doctrine and conveys in guarding trust.(Jude 1:3) To contend carries the idea of effort to give it everything you have got, expressive of the strain to which a contestant is put. The Bible includes a warning neither to add or taken out, changed from God’s Word.(Rev.22:18-19

Sound doctrine is important because what we believe affects what we do. Behavior is an extension of doctrine, and there is a direct relationship between what we think and how we act. For example, a man who believes that there is no such thing as right and wrong will naturally behave differently from a man who believes in well-defined moral standards. In one of the Bible’s lists of sins, things like rebellion, murder, lying, and slave trading are mentioned. The list concludes with “whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine”(1 Tim.1:9-10) True teaching promotes righteousness and sin flourishes where the sound doctrine is opposed. “Prove all things; hold fast that which is good”

Sound doctrine is important because we must ascertain truth in a world of falsehood. “Many false prophets have gone out into the world”(1Joh 4:1) There are tares among the wheat and wolves among the flock.(Mat13:25) Jesus warned His disciples: Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. (Mat.7:15–20) Christ was speaking of smooth-talking ministers who would beguile their followers by preaching a false gospel. Jesus again warned: "Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come *in My name and will deceive many*. For false christs and false prophets will arise and show great signs and wonders, to deceive,(Matthew 24:4–5, 24) Jesus foretold that a widespread religious deception, distorting His message, would be a key sign that the end of the age was near. The best way to distinguish truth from falsehood is to know what the truth is.

Sound doctrine is important because end of sound doctrine is life. “Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers”(1 Timothy 4:16) Conversely, the end of false doctrine is destruction. “*They are ungodly people, who turn the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.*(Jude 1:4) Changing God’s message of grace is a godless thing to do, and the condemnation for such a deed is severe. The Apostle Paul warns not to be deceived by false teachers who preach another Jesus whom we have not preached.(2 Cor.11:1–4) Paul admonished in Galatians 1:6-9 “*I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ*” There is difference in follow the commands which God has given us, contained within God’s system of grace and faith, and rules which we make up ourselves to follow. Church of Galatia were adding to God’s commands and making up their own commands to follow. The Apostle Peter warned that "there will be false teachers, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies... and many will follow their destructive ways, they will exploit you with deceptive words"(2 Peter 2:1–3) Paul issued this prophetic warning: "In the last days perilous times will come... men will... be lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power... from such people turn away!"(2 Tim.3:1–5)

Sound doctrine is important because it encourages believers. A love of God’s Word brings great peace (Psa119:165) and those “who proclaim peace who proclaim salvation” are truly “beautiful”(Isaiah 52:7) The word of wisdom is “*Do not remove the ancient landmark which your fathers have set*” (Proverbs 22:28). Sound doctrine is one which conforms to godliness. May we never stray from “the simplicity that is in Christ”(2 Cor.11:3). *Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.*(Gal.5:1)

Doctrine is “a set of ideas or beliefs that are taught or believed to be true.” Biblical doctrine refers to teachings that align with the revealed Word of God, the Bible. Bible for example, talks about the teachings of men (Mark 7:7–8), the teachings of demons (1 Tim. 4:1; Rev. 2:24), and the teachings of God (John 6:45). Here, we are concerned with divine teaching, the teaching of God. God loves us; and in His goodness He has given us the good gift of doctrine (Ps. 119:68) that we might learn of Him and of His gospel, and that we might please Him in our walk. Doctrine is the teaching of our heavenly Father, revealed in Jesus Christ, and transmitted to us by the Holy Spirit, in the Holy Scripture—the Bible, and it is to be received, confessed, and followed in the church, to the glory of God’s name. The triune God is the ultimate teacher, informs our faith and guides our love. Though the God is the ultimate source of doctrine, He has chosen to minister doctrine to us through His prophets and Apostles in Holy Scripture. Doctrine is measured by Holy Scripture as by a rule as it is the source and norm of sound doctrine. Furthermore, those “untaught” in sound doctrine are most prone to twisting the Scriptures “to their own destruction”(2 Peter 3:16).

False doctrine is any idea that adds to, takes away from, contradicts, or nullifies the doctrine given in God’s Word. For example, any teaching about Jesus that denies His virgin birth is a false doctrine, because it contradicts the clear teaching of Scripture.(Mat.1:18) As early as the first century AD, false doctrine was already infiltrating the church, and many letters in the New Testament were written to address those errors.(Gal.1:6–9;Col.2:20–23) Paul exhorted to guard against those who were peddling heresies and confusing flock: “*If anyone teaches a different doctrine .., those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, he is proud, knowing nothing.*” (1 Tim.6:3–4) As followers of Christ, we have no excuse for remaining ignorant of doctrine because we have the whole counsel of God available to us—the Bible is complete. 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.

It is important to point out difference between false doctrine & denominational disagreements. Different congregation groups see secondary issues in Scripture differently. These differences are not always due to false doctrine on anyone’s part. Church policies, governmental decisions, style of worship, etc., are all open for discussion, since they are not directly addressed in Scripture. Differences in interpretation or practice do not necessarily qualify as false doctrine, nor should they divide the Body of Christ.(1 Corinthians 1:10) False doctrine is that which opposes some fundamental truth which is necessary for salvation. The following are some examples of false doctrine:

- a) The erasing of hell. The Bible describes hell as a real place of eternal punishment, the destination for every unregenerate soul.(Revelation 20:15) A denial of hell directly contradicts Jesus’ own words (Matthew 10:28; 25:46)
- b) The idea that there are “many paths to God.” This false doctrine claims that, since God is love, He will accept any religious effort as long as the practitioner is sincere. Such belief effectively eliminates purpose the Son of God to take on flesh and be crucified for us. It contradicts Jesus’ direct words that He is the only way to God.(John 14:6)
- c) Any teaching that redefines the person of Jesus Christ. Doctrine that denies the deity of Christ, the virgin birth, His sinless nature, His actual death, or His physical resurrection is false doctrine, is “anti-Christ.”(1John 4:13)
- d) Teaching that adds human religious works to Christ’s finished work on the cross as necessary ingredients for salvation.(Rom11:6) Eph. 2:8 says we are saved by the grace of God, through faith, and nothing we do can add to it.
- e) Satan has been confusing and perverting the Word of God since the Garden of Eden (Gen.3:1–4; Mat.4:6). False teachers, the servants of Satan, try to appear as “servants of righteousness” promoting false doctrine.(2 Cor.11:15)

What about Pray to dead Saints? Bible says that we are not to try and communicate with the dead. The “dead” are those humans who have already died and passed over to the other side –whether it be to heaven or to hell. Whenever the Bible mentions praying to or speaking with the dead, it is in the context of sorcery, witchcraft, divination—activities the Bible strongly condemns and God makes that this practice is an abomination in His eyes! (Leviticus 19:32;20:27;Deu.18:9-13) The issue of praying to saints is one that is full of confusion. Whether asking the saints to intercede with God for help or being prayed, neither practice has any biblical basis. The saints are not yet resurrected nor glorified in heaven, how could they possibly hear the prayers? Hebrews 4:16 tells us that we, children of God here on earth, can “*approach the throne of grace with confidence and boldness.*” 1Tim.2:5 declares, “*For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.*” Further, the Bible tells us that Jesus Christ Himself is interceding for us before the Father.(Hebr.7:25) Rom.8:26-27 describes the Holy Spirit interceding for us.

God “has set a day in which he purposes to judge the inhabited earth”(Acts 17:31) There is a day coming, that will bring men’s secret sins into open day, and discover the secrets of their hearts. Then every slandered believer will be justified, every faithful servant/saints approved and rewarded. *but He who judges me is the Lord. Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts and then shall every man have praise of God.*(1Cor.4:3-5) Jesus at Day of Judgment, when all secrets shall be revealed and a true judgment shall be passed on all men. Do not judge, wait until the Lord come!

If you are persuaded for sound doctrine, then in your prayer and open to letting God show you the truth, then He will.

Some Christians view that doctrine is to be avoided because doctrine causes division among Christians. While it is true that doctrine does cause division, if the division is due to a disagreement over an important biblical teaching, division is not necessarily a bad thing. Bible declares, *“For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear”*(2 Timothy 4:3). Titus 1:9–16 proclaims, *“He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it”*

The Christian faith, more than any other, is based on doctrine. The doctrines of the deity of Christ (John 1:1, 14), the substitutionary sacrifice of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:21), the resurrection of Christ (1 Cor.15:17), and salvation by grace through faith alone (Ephesians 2:8-9) are absolutely essential and non-negotiable. If any of these doctrines is removed, the faith is empty and void. There are other doctrines in the Christian faith that are very important, such as the Trinity, the inspiration of Scripture, and the reality of the eternal state. If Christian doctrine is causing division on any of these points, so be it, as those who deny these doctrines need to be separated from. However, there has also been a great amount of division in the Body of Christ due to doctrines that do not have crucial status. Examples include timing of the rapture, new-earth vs. old-earth creationism, charismatic vs. non-charismatic, premillennialism vs. amillennialism, etc. Every Christian doctrine carries some importance. But these doctrines are perhaps not ones worth dividing/separating over. There are dedicated, Christ-loving believers on both sides of these issues. We should not divide over non-essential issues, at least not to the extent of questioning the validity of another person’s faith. There are degrees of division, however, that are appropriate even in regards to non-essential Christian doctrine. A church is to be united and like-minded in regards to focus, priorities, and ministry. If there is a doctrinal issue that prevents a united ministry focus, it is better for a person to find a different church rather than cause conflict and division within a church. These sorts of divisions have been the cause of many of the divisions/denominations within the Christian faith. But we are all fallen and sin-infected beings. Sin prevents us from perfectly understanding and applying God’s Word. Not understanding and submitting to Christian doctrine is what causes division. Sometimes, division over non-essential matters is necessary as well. But, the blame for division should never be placed on doctrine. Christian doctrine, in reality, is the only way to true, faith, full and biblical unity within the Body of Christ.

God gave us the Bible to teach us about Him and His ways, since God is not a God of confusion (1 Cor.14:33), any confusion must come from the destructive forces of the world, the flesh and the devil. The “world” refers to ungodly world system and its people who do not understand or care about the Word of God; the “flesh” is the lingering sinful nature Christians possess that corrupts their godly walk; and devil refers to Satan and his demons who twist God’s Word, often while pretend as angels of light.(2Cor.11:14-15) These forces can act individually or in union in an attempt to confuse people about Word of God. Most confusion results from our own lack of knowledge. Ultimately, confusion about the Bible can lead to a false hope of salvation that is Satan’s ultimate goal. When Satan tempted Jesus, he used misinterpretations of the Word of God for his attacks. Satan does the same thing today, taking a truth of Scripture and misapplying it. Satan is skilled at twisting Word of God, so that it produces disastrous consequences, while still sounding like Word of God. Satan hates the word of God because God’s word is truth and His commands.

Sometimes confusion over what the Bible teaches originates from poor Bible translations, or even intentionally distorted translations. On what Rock did Christ build His church? *And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church,*(Mat.16:16-18) What Jesus really meant? Peter’s name *Petros* in Greek word means “a fragment, a stone” or small rock. The second word Christ used was *petra* means Rock. The rock He was building His Church on was a rock big enough to serve as the chief cornerstone in the foundation; it was large, strong and immovable. This describes none other than Jesus Christ Himself! He distinguished the rock (*petra*) He was building the Church on from Peter (*petros*). *“built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone”*(Mat.21:42; Eph.2:20) In 1 Cor.10:4 the apostle Paul refers to Christ as “that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.” Christ did establish offices in His Church (Ephesians 4:11), but the Bible instructs those who hold offices of leadership to remain faithful to Christ’s teachings.(1 Corinthians 11:1) *you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house,*(1Pet.2:5) Peter himself taught *follow His steps:*(1 Peter 2:21) We stand on Christ solid Rock. O LORD, my sheltering rock. The rock, is the believer’s sure hope of deliverance.

Confusion results from a lack of serious study. We are wise to recognize how vulnerable we are deviation and make it habit to do as the Bereans did in Acts 17:11: *“they searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were true”* The Bereans have long been seen as a positive example of how a person or community should respond to biblical teaching. We are called to eagerly learn from God’s Word and, no matter who the teacher is, to investigate new teaching in comparison with the Bible. The practice of the ancient Bereans is a model for all who desire to grow spiritually today. When we make it our goal to follow, lead of first church in avoiding the pitfalls of false doctrine. *“But on this one will I look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, And who trembles at My word.*(Isa.66:2)

What is apostasy?

-4-

Apostasy, from the Greek word *apostasia*, means “a defiance of an established system or authority; a rebellion; an abandonment or breach of faith.” Apostasy threatens the Body of Christ today, it is critical that all Christians understand two things: (1) how to recognize apostasy and apostate teachers, (2) why apostate teaching is so deadly.

The Bible warns about people like Arius (c. A.D. 250 - 336), a Christian priest from Alexandria, Egypt, who was trained at Antioch in the early fourth century. Arius accused Bishop Alexander of Alexandria of subscribing, a false teaching which asserted that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit were merely roles or modes assumed by God at various times. Arius was determined to emphasize the oneness of God; however, he went too far in his teaching of God’s nature. Arius denied the Trinity and introduced what appeared on the surface to be a difference between the Father and Son. Arius argued that Jesus was not *homoousios* (of the same essence) as the Father, but was rather *homoiousios* (of similar essence). Arius described his position in this manner: “The Father existed before the Son. There was a time when the Son did not exist. Therefore, the Son was created by the Father. Although the Son was the highest of all creatures, he was not of the essence of God. Arius was very clever and did his best to get the people on his side, even going so far as to compose songs that taught his theology, which he tried to teach to everyone who would listen. His winsome nature, revered position as a preacher and one who lived in denial of himself contributed to his cause.

To identify and combat apostasy, it is important that Christians understand its various forms, traits that characterize its doctrines and teachers. As to the forms of apostasy, there are two main types: (1) a falling away from key and true doctrines of the Bible into heretical teachings that proclaim to be “the real” Christian doctrine, (2) a complete rejection of the Christian faith, which results in a full abandonment of Christ. Arius represents first form of apostasy a denial of key Christian truths (the divinity of Christ) that begins a downhill slide into a full departure from the faith which is the second form of apostasy. It is important to understand that the second form almost always begins with the first. A heretical belief becomes a teaching that splinters and grows until it pollutes all aspects of a person’s faith and then the end goal of Satan is accomplished, which is a complete falling away from Christianity.

Jude in his letter, outlines how to recognize apostasy and urges those in the body of Christ to contend earnestly for the faith (vs.3), which means that the struggle will be continuous. In other words, Jude is telling us that there will be a constant fight against false teaching and that Christians should take it so seriously that we “agonize” over the fight in which we are engaged. So it is critical that all believers sharpen their discernment skills so that they can recognize and prevent apostasy in their midst. Jude highlights the reason: “For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ” (vs. 4) Jude provides with three traits of apostasy

First, Jude says that apostasy can be subtle. Jude uses the word *crept* to describe the apostate’s entry into the church. the term describes the cunning craftiness of a lawyer who, through clever argumentation, infiltrates the minds of courtroom officials and corrupts their thinking. Instead, it looks a lot like Arius’ preaching in which, only a single letter differentiates his doctrine from the real teaching of the Christian faith. Describing this aspect of apostasy and its underlying danger, it takes a sharp eye these days to know which brother is Cain and which is Abel. Outwardly they have pleasing behavior of apostates and their teaching, Apostle Paul says *“For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light”* (2 Cor.11:13-14). Rather than denying truth outright, apostates will twist it to fit their own agenda.

Second, Jude describes the apostates as “ungodly” and as those who use God’s grace as a license to commit unrighteous acts. Beginning with “ungodly,” Jude describes eighteen unflattering traits of apostates so his readers can more easily identify them. Jude says the apostates are ungodly (vs. 4), morally perverted (vs. 4), denying Christ (vs. 4), ones who defile the flesh (vs. 8), rebellious (vs. 8), people who revile angels (vs. 8), who are ignorant about God (vs. 8), those who proclaim false visions (vs. 10), self-destructive (vs. 10), grumblers (vs. 16), fault finders (vs. 16), self-satisfying (vs. 16), people who use arrogant words and false flattery (vs. 16), mockers of God (vs. 18), those who cause divisions (vs. 19), worldly minded (vs. 19), and finally devoid of the Spirit/unsaved.(vs. 19)

Third, Jude says apostates “deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.” How do apostates do this? *They profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed”* (Titus 1:15-16). Through their unrighteous behavior, the apostates show their true selves. But the apostates’ false teaching also shows their true nature.(2 Peter 2:1) Ultimately, the sign of an apostate is that he eventually falls away and departs from the truth of God’s Word and His righteousness.(1 John 2:19) It should be remembered that Satan did not come to the first men in the Garden with a supernatural weapon; instead, he came to them with an idea of cunning craftiness. And it was that idea that condemned them and the rest of humankind, with the only remedy being the sacrificial death of God’s Son. It is critical, now more than ever, that every believer pray for discernment, combat apostasy, and contend earnestly for the faith that has once and for all been delivered to the saints.

What is heresy, cult, and sect?

-5-

A basic definition of heresy is “adherence to a religious opinion contrary to church dogma.” A second definition is “dissent or deviation from a dominant theory, opinion, or practice.” These definitions identify two key elements: a dominant position and a contrary position. With regards to religion, any belief or practice that goes against official position of the church is considered heretical. Any group or individual who differs from another group can technically be called heretical. In Acts 24:14, Christians are called heretics by the Jews. The “heretics” of the Middle Ages were only heretical in that they disagreed with the Church, not because they held unbiblical doctrines. Thus, biblically speaking, it was the established church itself that was heretical during the Middle Ages.

Regarding biblical Christianity, what is heresy? 2 Peter 2:1 says, “*There will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction.*” From this verse, we see that heresy is anything that denies the teaching of Jesus. In 1 Cor. 11:19, Paul takes the church to task for having heresies among them—heresies that led to schisms in the body. These verses touch on both aspects of what constitutes heresy in the church: denying the doctrines God has given, and dividing the body He has created. Both of these are dangerous, destructive actions that are soundly rebuked by Scripture.

How does the Bible deal with heresy? Titus 3:10 says, “A man that is heretic (“divisive person,” “factious man,”) after the first and second admonition reject” When a person in the church departs from biblical teaching, the correct response is to, first, try to correct him, but if he refuses to listen after two warnings, have nothing more to do with him. The truth of Christ will unify believers (John 17:22-23), but heresy, by its very nature, cannot peacefully co-exist with the truth. Of course, not every disagreement in the church is heresy. Having a different opinion is not wrong, but when the opinion is divisive or maintained in defiance of clear biblical teaching, it becomes heretical. The apostles themselves disagreed at times (see Acts 15:36-41), and Peter once had to be rebuked for divisive and legalistic behavior. (Galatians 2:11-14) But, by the grace of God, through an attitude of humility and submission to the God of truth, the apostles worked through their disagreements and set an example for us.

How do we guard against heresy? Philippians 2:2-3 is a good starting point: “*Complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.*” As we submit ourselves to the authority of God’s Word and deal with one another in love and respect, divisions and heresies will be diminished.

When people hear the word cult, they often think of a group that worships Satan, sacrifices animals, or takes part in evil, strange, and pagan rituals. However, in reality, a cult rarely involves such things. In fact, a cult, is simply a religious system with particular rites and customs. In a Christian context, the definition of a cult is, specifically, “a religious group that denies one or more of the fundamentals of biblical truth.” A cult claims to be part of a religion, yet it denies essential truth(s) of that religion. Therefore, a Christian cult will deny one or more of the fundamental truths of Christianity while still claiming to be Christian. The two most common teachings of Christian cults are that Jesus was not God and that salvation is not by faith alone. A denial of the deity of Christ results in the view that Jesus’ death was insufficient to pay for our sins. A denial of salvation by faith alone results in the teaching that salvation is achieved by our own works. The apostles dealt with cults in the early years of the church: for example, John addresses the teaching in 1 John 4:1–3. John’s litmus test for godly doctrine was “Jesus Christ has come in the flesh” a direct contradiction of the Gnostic heresy. (2 John 1:7) As Christians, our hope and prayer must be people involved in cults will see through the lies and will be drawn to the truth of salvation through faith in Jesus alone.

The word ‘sect’ and sectarianism means a chosen manner of life and then a religious party, as the sect of the Pharisees, Sadducees (Acts 15:5) that may apply to a religious faith or denomination, or it may refer to a heretical splinter group. Later holding malicious error, divergent forms of belief, similar to the destructive heresies. (2 Peter 2:1) The word cult always carries a negative feelings. There are specific criteria used to identify a cult. In combatting cult mind Control, “a pyramid-shaped authoritarian regime with a person or group of people that have dictatorial control.

Tradition can be good or bad. Oral tradition may become rumor, opinions and “the traditions of men” in contrast to the commandments of God. (Col. 2:8, 22) Some churches claim to believe the Bible, but their interpretation is always filtered through the established traditions of their church. Where tradition and teaching of the Bible are in conflict tradition is given precedence. This effectively contradicts the authority of the Word and grants to church supremacy. Only Bible is totally trustworthy, we need to discard those traditions. *We ought to obey God rather than men.* (Act 5:29) Christian perspective, a cult is any group that follows teachings that contradict Christian doctrine and promote heresy. Some people confuse cults with sects or denominations. Always research the beliefs of a group before committing to it, examine its behaviors and doctrines in light of the Bible. Our eternity depends on what you do with God's revealed truth, which leads to eternal life. Knowing the truth is not enough. God wants you to act. *But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.*

Jesus warned us that “false Christs and false prophets” will come and will attempt to deceive even God’s elect (Mat.24:23-27) The best way to guard yourself against falsehood and false teachers is to know the truth. To spot a counterfeit, study the real thing. Any believer who “correctly handles the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15) and who makes a careful study of the Bible can identify false doctrine. For example, a believer who has read the activities of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in Matthew 3:16-17 will immediately question any doctrine that denies the Trinity. Therefore step one is to study the Bible and judge all teaching by what Scripture says. Jesus said a tree is recognized by its fruit”(Matthew 12:33) When looking for “fruit,” here are tests to apply to determine the accuracy of teaching:

1) What does this teacher say about Jesus? In Matthew 16:15-16, Jesus asks, “Who do you say I am?” Peter answers, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God,” and for this answer Peter is called “blessed.” In 2 John 9, *Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.* Jesus Christ and His work of redemption is of importance; beware of anyone who denies that Jesus is equal with God, who downplays Jesus’ sacrificial death. First John 2:22 says, “Who is the liar? It is the man who denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a man is the antichrist—he denies the Father and the Son.”

2) Does this teacher preach the gospel? The gospel is defined as the good news concerning Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection.(1Cor.15:1-4) As Paul warns in Galatians 1:7,8 Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. No one, not even a great preacher, has the right to change the message that God gave us. If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let him be eternally accursed

3) Does this teacher exhibit character qualities that glorify the Lord? Speaking of false teachers, Jude 11 says, “They have taken the way of Cain; they have rushed for profit into Balaam’s error; they have been destroyed in Korah’s rebellion” In other words, a false teacher can be known by his pride(Cain’s rejection of God’s plan), greed(Balaam’s prophesying for money), and rebellion (Korah’s promotion of himself over Moses).(Matthew 7:15-20)

John identifies them as those “who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh” and describes them as deceivers and antichrists (2 John 1:7,10) if anyone comes teaching a falsehood about Jesus Christ, “do not take them into your house or welcome them.” Boundaries had to be drawn. Hospitality should not be extended to frauds, and the devil’s own emissaries. And he tells her why: “Anyone who welcomes them shares in their wicked work”.(verse 11) False teachers are not to receive help from believers, not even so much as a greeting. To give material aid or spiritual encouragement to the sources of false doctrine is to partake in their wickedness.

It is important to understand the doctrine that John was defending. In saying, “Jesus Christ has come in the flesh,” John affirms that Jesus is both fully God and truly man. in 1 John 4:2, telling his readers how to identify false teachers and the spirits who drive them. The first test of a true teacher/prophet of God is that he proclaims that Jesus is God in human form. A godly teacher will teach both full deity and true humanity of Christ. The Holy Spirit testifies to true nature of Christ, while Satan and his demonic host deny that true nature. Today, there are many who deny the full deity of Christ—and John identifies them as deceivers and antichrists. It is often difficult to spot a false prophet. Satan pretenses as an angel of light (2Cor.11:14) and his ministers pretense as servants of righteousness.

What should be our response, when cultists or false teachers come knocking at the door? It is not wrong to share the truth with them or to relate our testimony. We are called to speak the truth in love.(Eph.4:15) However, we must be careful not to do anything that would give the appearance that we approve of their message. We should never invite them into our home for an extended stay, donate money to their cause, or allow them to conduct a study with us. Remember, cultists are master deceivers who are well trained in techniques that will confuse those whose knowledge of Scripture is limited. Second, Christians are of Christ; cultists are anti-Christ, no matter how kind, sincere, and charming they may appear. Third, Jesus tells us to “watch out” for false teachers (Mat.7:15), and Paul tells us to “avoid them” (Rom.16:17) Therefore, we should build no close associations with those who teach a false gospel. Fourth, John tells not to welcome a false teacher. In other words, we are not to bless false teachers or wish them well. In any case, we must rely the Lord’s wisdom (Jam.1:5) and be cautious not to cast our pearls before pigs.(Mat.7:6)

Bible says that just before Jesus returns a “man of lawlessness will appear visibly on earth.(2 Thessalonians 2:3,4) In this profound prophecy of last-day events, there is going to be a rebellion, an apostasy, a great falling away from the faith. In conjunction with this apostasy, a “man of lawlessness will appear. This individual is truly a false Christ, He is also known as the Antichrist. This false christ will set himself up in God’s temple in Jerusalem and counterfeit the ministry of Jesus. Tragically, those who are deceived by serving a false Christ, have not kept God’s commands. “*And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’*”(Mat.7:22, 23)

These false christs twist and distort the Word of God to promote their own agenda or appeal to thinking of the world. Since the devil’s main mission is to steal and destroy us, we children of God must be diligent is putting on the Armor of God each day. Every day we are in a battlefield, fighting against the wiles (trickery, deceit) of satan and his demons.

The word *Heterodoxy* is the collective term for opinions or doctrines that vary from orthodoxy, the official position. At times, heterodox views are more biblical than the prevailing orthodox view. For example, Martin Luther's views on salvation by grace through faith stood in direct opposition to Catholic doctrine, and his writings were considered heterodoxy. His ideas challenged the orthodoxy of the time and were a better, more biblical alternative to established church's dogma, view. It leads to printing of the Bible in the common language and to a more biblical understanding of the gospel. Jesus Himself preached heterodox views. The religious leaders of His time taught that full adherence to the Law was possible by self-righteous, self-effort. It was a religion lacking of mercy, grace, or dependence on God, and Jesus spoke against it.(Matthew 9:13) In fact, Jesus opposed the Pharisees and scribes at every turn, preaching against their understanding of the Sabbath (Mat.12:1–8), decrying their additions to the Word of God (Mark 7:7), calling them "blind guides"(Matthew23:24), and even proclaiming "woes" on them for their stubborn false teaching.

"Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who sold and bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. And He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer, 'but you have made it a 'den of thieves.(Matthew 21:12–13) These sellers, and the priests who allowed their presence cared nothing for true worship as long as they could make money and keep up the rituals. Our Savior hated this profanity, which kept the God's people from learning about the living God in His sanctuary. So, Jesus drove out the sellers. It showed Jesus as having divine authority to purify and take charge of the temple, a messianic task.(Ezek.43:1–12) The church is now the temple where God dwells. In 1Cor.3:16-17 the church is growing into a holy temple in the Lord and every believer individually is a temple of the Lord.(1Cor.6:19-Jesus has authority over this church and over every individual in it. He is the rightful Lord of the church. He owns because He purchased each one with His blood. Thus He has the right to cleanse the church and to cleanse every person in it.

As the Lord of the temple, Jesus knew that the temple was not to be a place for business. It was a place for worship, for prayer, and for offering sacrifices. It was the place to meet with God and seek His face. It was the place to gather for the feasts. The Passover which Jesus here went up to celebrate, but it had degenerated into a business opportunity for money changers. God's purpose for His church is that we would glorify Him by growing in fervent love for Him and for one another (commandments) and by proclaiming the gospel to the lost (Commission). We need to keep on task by evaluating all that we do in light of these purposes. If we live for anything else, the Lord will examine us and purge out that which has diverted us from His purpose for us. As the Lord of the temple, Jesus hates certain things that go on in it. Jesus is zealous for God's house. He was in His Father's house, doing "His Father's business". Jesus acts out of zeal for His Father's house, laying claim to the temple and cleansing it.(Psa 69:9) Jesus exclaimed that they were turning the house of prayer into a den of robbers. He made a whip, drove them out with force. He angrily over-turned their money tables and scattered their coins. He was gentle toward sinners, He gives grace upon grace. He so loves us that He gave Himself for us on the cross. But "If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are." Jesus hates sin because sin destroys people, we should hate our own sin and be quick to repent of it so that He doesn't have to clean house for us.(Rev.3:19) Judge, confess, and forsake your sin on the thought level and it won't go any farther. If you've already sinned in word or deed, turn from it, ask God to forgive you, and ask forgiveness of those you've sinned against. Also, in humility, go to your brother and seek to restore him to the Lord. Respect God's house and those who come to give Him honor.

And what agreement has the temple of God with idols?(2 Cor.6:16) "Guard yourselves from idols."(1 John 5:21) God rejects worship given to him *through* images and statues. When some Israelites tried to worship him using a statue of a calf, God said that they had committed "a terrible sin."(Exo.32:7-9;20:4-5) In contrast to pagan worship their idols are the work of men's hands. Christians should be "*walking by faith, not by sight,*"(2 Cor.5:7) An idol is any person, object or activity you give a higher priority in your life than a relationship with God. Stubbornness, covetousness considered idolatry in the eyes of God. His own selfishness can be an idol, as "self" is more important than God. A devotion to Mary is a form of idol worship. Idols are an abomination to the Lord. God is a jealous God.

As Lord of the temple, Jesus cleanses it. A sober question to ask is, "What would Jesus do if He visited our church?" Would He be pleased with our worship? Would He happy as He looked at our relationships as Bride? Would He approve of our heart for the lost? Would He commend our giving and the way that we use the church's funds? Would He say that our prayer life reflects our total dependence on Him? Ask the same question on an individual level: Lord, is my life pleasing to You? Is my love for You genuine? Do I reflect the fruit of the Spirit? Is my thought life pure in Your sight? Where would You clean house in my life if I gave You full rein? As the Lord's temple, we must submit to His cleansing. Hebrews 12:6,11 reminds us, "*For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines, and He scourges every son whom He receives.*" And so we should not regard His discipline lightly when we are reproved by Him, but rather be subject to the Father of spirits and live. Once Jesus has cleaned our house for us, we need to keep it clean. It's good every so often to examine yourself to make sure that you're in the faith.(2Cor.13:5) (see 1Cor.11:28)

The divine origin of the Bible gives it its unity and the ultimate source of all interpretation is from God.(Gen.40:8) *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*(II Tim.2:15) "Rightly dividing" as used here is taken from the rules for Old Testament sacrifices and means to "cut straight." When a person brought a sacrifice for sin, the animal was divided into three parts. One part was offered to God. Another part was given to the one who brought the offering. The third part went to the priest. From this practice it means to give to each that which belongs to him. In Bible study it is important to rightly divide the Word of God. This means you must understand what is being said to whom. You must interpret and apply the meaning correctly. There are three major groups listed in I Cor.10:32: Give none offense, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the Church of God. For example, God told Noah to build an ark. You are to learn spiritual truths but it does not mean, you should build an ark. Some of the Bible portions is directed to the Jews, to the Gentiles (nations other than the Jews), to the Church (those who are true believers in Jesus Christ). Interpretation, you must learn how to arrive at the proper meaning for each Scripture. Jesus pointed out to the religious leaders "You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or power of God.(Mat.22:29) Spiritual error results from not knowing God's Word. There are principles you must follow in order to properly interpret rightly divide the Word of God.

The rule of divine authority means that we accept the Bible as the final authority. We believe that all the Bible is inspired by God, from Genesis thru Revelation.(II Tim.3:16; II Pet.1:19-21) Every portion of the Bible is inspired, then there is no conflict between the Bible and history or science. When conflicts are apparent, the Bible is taken as the final authority because it is the divinely inspired Word of God. Holy Scriptures give us sufficient rule of life.

To interpret the Bible literally means to believe it means exactly what it says. Always interpret the Bible literally unless the context clearly indicates otherwise. When the Bible says Israel crossed the Red sea on dry ground, accept it literally. Symbols are used in the Bible which stands for a meaning in addition to its ordinary one. For example, in Mark 14:22 the wine is used as a symbol of the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.(not drinking actual blood) Jesus often used parables when He taught. A parable is a story that is told for the purpose of illustrating a spiritual truth. Every verse of the Bible should be studied in its context. This means it should be studied in relation to the verses which precede and follow it, as well as in relation to the rest of the Bible. Many false doctrines and cults have been created because verses or parts of verses were taken out of their context. For example, the Bible says there is no God in Psalm 14:1. But if we read all the passage then we have this: *The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God.*

The rule of first mention is as follows: The first time a word, phrase, object, or incident is mentioned in the Bible, it gives the key to its meaning anywhere else it occurs. In Genesis 3 there is the first mention of fig leaves. Here Adam used fig leaves to try to cover his own sin and nakedness by his own efforts. Fig leaves speak of self-righteousness, rejection of God's remedy, an attempt to justify one's self before God. This is meaning of fig leaves wherever they are mentioned afterwards in the Bible. All the words in the Bible is divinely inspired and necessary. For this reason when something is repeated in Scripture it is for special emphasis. It means that a truth is of such special importance that it needs to be repeated. John 3 illustrates this rule of repetition. Jesus tells Nicodemus of the necessity of the new birth experience and repeats it three times: Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. (John 3:3,5,7) The rule of cumulative revelation is stated in the Bible: In II Peter 1:20- 21, No prophecy of scripture is its own interpretation; That is, it is not isolated from all that the Word has given elsewhere. The full truth of God's Word on any subject must not be gathered from an isolated passage. The cumulative(total) revelation of all the Bible says regarding a truth must be considered. You cannot base your doctrine, teaching, beliefs on a few isolated verses about a subject. You must keep studying until your interpretation becomes consistent with whole of the Scriptures. Use the Bible to help interpret itself. For example, there are passages that teach the doctrine of eternal security, that once a person is saved, cannot lose salvation.(John 5; Rom 8) But Galatians 5:4 its reference to falling from grace is one of warning passages pointed to by those who reject the doctrine of the eternal security, ie. setting aside the grace that comes from Christ. In Phi 2:12-13 instruct us to: *continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling.* Paul said, "I die daily" He chose every day to die to self, re-dedicate to God on a daily basis.(1Cor.15:31;Heb.6:4-6)

Biblical passages must be interpreted according to the intention of the author and in the context in which statement is made. God has laid down in his word how to obtain the truth from the scriptures. Leviticus 11:1-8 describes the scripture must be rightly divided (dividing the hoof), and it must be meditated upon (chewing the cud). Study Bible with prayer, broken heart, a humble and open heart. Application is why we study the Bible. Be prepared to change your ideas if God shows you something new truth is revealed. Nobody will ever make perfection unless they are prepared to change every single belief that they currently hold. We need, as best as can be had, the guidance of the Holy Spirit in interpreting God's Word: Scripture tells us that we are to rely on the Holy Spirit's illumination to gain insights into meaning and application of Scripture.(Joh16:12-15) It is the Holy Spirit's work "our teacher", "Spirit of truth" to throw light upon the Word of God so that the believer can acceptance to the meaning intended and act on it.

Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection [spiritual maturity]; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, Of the doctrine of baptisms and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.(Heb.6:1-3) Two spiritual objectives are set forth in this verse: The first objective is that of building your spiritual life on the right foundation. This foundation is the doctrine of Jesus Christ. The second objective is to go on to perfection. The ultimate goal of this process is union with God characterized by pure love of God and other people as well as personal holiness or sanctification. There are two reasons for failure to live a victorious Christian life. The first reason is that some who are trying to live like Christians have never been born again. They do not understand basic doctrines of Jesus Christ, because of this they have failed to make proper response to God. Second reason for failure is not going on to spiritual maturity.

The Bible compares the life of a believer to the construction of a building: You are God's building.(ICor.3:9) Each believer is united in Christ with other Christians to form the Church. *in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.*(Eph.2:22) A believer must have a proper foundation in order to build a good spiritual house. The purpose of your spiritual "building" is to provide a dwelling place for God. His Spirit will dwell in you only when your life is built on the right foundation. *Do you not know that you are a temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?*(ICor.3:16) The spiritual foundation of which the Word of God speaks is built upon a rock, that rock is Christ.(Luk.6:48) We are each building a spiritual life. The proper foundation for a life is Jesus' words and put them into practice. Jesus Christ is the good foundation for spiritual life. Jesus told a parable about two men: one who built his house upon a rock and another who built his house upon sand. The house built upon a rock weathered the storm, and the builder is called wise man because he trusts God despite pressures and obey Him; but the house built on the sand collapsed during the storm, and he is called foolish who built on a wrong foundation. (Mat.7:27) You build on the sand spiritually when you base your life on the traditions or religious beliefs of man. It is wrong thinking you can make yourself spiritual by just good works, church attendance or religious ceremonies.

Heb.6:1-3 lists principles of the doctrine of Christ on which a believer is to build his spiritual life. These principles are called the foundations of the Christian faith. The first of these principles is repentance from dead works. Basic meaning of the word repentance is a change in mind which results in a change in outward actions. Repentance from dead works was defined as an inward decision or change of mind resulting in the outward action of turning from sin towards God and righteousness. Acts 20:21 calls it repentance toward God. All unrighteousness is sin.(IJo.5:17) By the act of repentance you turn from your own dead works of sin towards God. Repentance is a personal decision to forsake sin and enter into fellowship with God. It is the power of God which actually brings the change in the mind, heart and life of the sinner. Dead works were defined as sin, the actions of a life lived apart from God. These works may be wrong deeds or acts of self-righteousness. The basic thing that causes sin is selfishness. It is the love of self as opposed to the love of God. This love of self-results in man going "his own way".(Isa53:6;ICo.5:15) Because of the sin of Adam and Eve death came on all men. That means everyone born inherits the basic nature of sin.(Rom5:12) When you repent from these dead works of selfishness it means you acknowledge the existence of the one true God, realize you are a sinner, ask forgiveness of your sin, and accept God's plan of salvation through Jesus. Conversion means "to turn" it means to turn from the wrong way to the right way. Repentance, conversion are best illustrated by a story Jesus told about the prodigal son.(Luk15:11-24) This young man left his father and home, went to a distant land, and through sin wasted all he owned. Eventually this young man realized his condition. He was hungry, lonely, in rags and tending pigs for a job. Then he made an important decision. He said I will arise and go to my father. This inward decision resulted in a change in his outward actions. He went home to his father to seek forgiveness. In his own sinful condition, every man has turned his back on God as his Father in Heaven as his home. He must come to himself and recognize his spiritual condition. He must make a decision which will turn him from sin towards God.

The "doctrine of Christ" is that all men everywhere must have faith in Jesus Christ, repent of their sins, be baptized, receive the gift of the Holy Spirit and endure to the end. In John 11:25 Jesus said, *"I am the resurrection and the life"* The word resurrection means a rising up from the dead. There are three resurrections: The resurrection of Christ from the dead. The spiritual resurrection of believers in Christ. Future resurrection of all that are in the graves.(ICo15:15-) Resurrection of life in glorified body will happen when Jesus returns to earth for His Bride, as promised.(Joh14:2-3) Lead to the great tribulation on earth, antichrist is revealed. A period of 1000 years after the tribulation during which Jesus will rule the earth in righteousness and peace. *God the judge of all, It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.* So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God that each may receive things *done* in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.(2Cor.5:10) Final place of judgment is called the Great white throne. Unrighteous will be judged, because of their sin cast into a lake of fire along with antichrist and false prophet. The new heaven and new earth are the "eternal state" and will be "where righteousness dwells" Bride of Christ are destined in the presence of God-Father's House. Heaven compared to a Holy city "New Jerusalem"

Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.(Acts 2:41-42) Those that word of God received with great joy and gladness were comforted by it, they were baptized and then added to the church. The disciples were engaged in four activities in the church: Apostles' doctrine, Fellowship, Breaking of bread, Prayers. And they received sound doctrine were being set free to worship Jesus. Christianity is a new birth. It is "Christ in you, the hope of glory." You repent, and place your faith in Christ, and become one with God through His Son! And now Gospel was published to men of all nations under the heavens. These new Christians, "continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine." First, "to continue steadfastly" means to keep walking in the Truth, growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. In other words, these folks adjusted their lives in accordance with their new life in Jesus Christ. They had the Holy Spirit, by coming under its power, who was seeking to guide them into all Truth and by living in it. They also had the apostles' themselves. Today, we have the apostles' doctrine. There was unity in the early church because they were steadfast in the apostles' doctrine. Doctrine develops character, counteracts error, reveals the mind of Christ and outlines fundamental truth. Apostles' doctrine involves a Word-centred life. *It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem.*(Acts 6:2-7)

What does the term, "apostles' doctrine" mean? It means the teachings and instruction of the apostles; of those who had walked and talked with Jesus, and had been called for this special purpose. The apostles had been given great revelation from God. They passed it on to the church. What was the apostles' doctrine? Their doctrine was about Jesus Christ.(2 John 1:9-11) Apostle John is saying to us, "You must Live in the doctrine of Christ." "If you don't, "You have no access to God." Also warns against giving any place whatsoever to those who do not teach, brings, or live in that doctrine, or Truth, of Jesus Christ. The apostles' doctrine included just about everything you find in the Bible. It was their teaching to continue in scripture. It is to walk in the Truth. But there are error is all that is outside of that which indicate what some of those things.(Rom 16:17) Here we see that to cause division and offences which is anything which takes the focus off of Christ – is considered to be contrary to the doctrine of the apostles.(1Tim:1) Paul charges Timothy to give heed to no other doctrine than that of, "grace, mercy, and peace, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord." He says not to give heed to fables, etc., or anything which does not edify church in their faith in Jesus Christ. And the doctrine which is acceptable is, love out of a pure heart, and a good conscience. Thus, to continue in the apostolic doctrine is to live a life in Christ, reflective of the Truth. Conducts those who commit fornication, homosexuality, lies are false witnesses are all walking contrary to sound doctrine. Apostolic doctrine is the message of Jesus, His redemptive work, and His call to discipleship. The church is built on the teaching of the apostles on foundation of Christ, the Rock.(Acts 4:11) *A stone of stumbling And a rock of offense, for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word.*(1Peter 2:8) Church deviate from doctrine of the apostles, cause division, sect and apostasy. Are we continuing in the apostles' doctrine? Your doctrine determines who you fellowship with!

Which church is the "true church"? The answer is that no visible church or denomination is the true church, because the bride of Christ is not an institution, but is instead a spiritual entity made up of those who have by grace through faith been brought into a close, intimate relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. The word church is a translation of the Greek word *ekklesia*, meaning "a called-out assembly" a gathering of professing believers who have been called out of the world and set apart for the Lord.(1Cor.16:9) When we are born again by faith in Jesus Christ we are born into the Kingdom of Heaven. Phi. 3:20 says, "Our citizenship is in heaven, we become "new creatures". He sends His Holy Spirit to indwell our spirits, and our bodies become His temple. We're living just strangers, pilgrims on the earth. *For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come.*(Heb.13:14) the Holy city called New Jerusalem. When choosing a church to attend, it is important to remember that a gathering of believers should be a place where those who belong to the true church, spiritual fellowship. That is, a good local church will uphold the Word of God, honoring it and preaching faithfully, proclaim the gospel, and feed and tend the sheep. Members of the true church always enjoy agreement in and fellowship around Jesus Christ, as He is plainly revealed in His Word. The true church is the bride of Christ and Christ our Bridegroom.(Rev.21:2;22:17) And its love for Christ and its dedication to Him.

If you will notice, those first disciples in the book of Acts knew that it mattered as to what they believed and practiced. And church doctrine is the product of commitment to Jesus Christ. If you look at the churches today, you find heresy, immorality, and spiritual sickness. The Churches that teaches heresy or engages in sin will eventually grieving those people that belong to the true church. There will be unity in the church again when we get back to the apostles' doctrine and give up false doctrines that have crept into the church. The apostolic restoration is demanding doctrinal accuracy and priority, with fellowship, breaking of bread and prayer. Being apostolic means we identify our faith with the same faith of the 1st church started on the day of Pentecost. Jesus returns again, He is coming for a perfect church, "a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing; holy and without blemish".(Eph. 5:27)