



Summer Selection Series
The Church's Lack of Doctrine
From Sermon 8.3.25

Read 2 Timothy 4:1-4

Overview from Sunday's sermon: Second only to the current Church's flawed view of Scripture is its lack of doctrine. Denominationalism means nothing anymore. Just because a church has a name on the marquee doesn't tell you anything about its beliefs and practices. Even more elusive these days is finding a church who publishes and affirms any deep teachings or positions based on Scripture. This has had a huge and damaging impact on the Christian Community. The Bible clearly shows that doctrine matters.

1. What's the difference between a "Belief Statement" and a "Doctrinal Statement"? [Almost every church will have a belief statement on their web site or printed materials. Good luck finding their doctrine.]

Belief Statement: Very brief & shallow. Superficial = Things even the devil/demons believe. See James 2:19
Doctrinal statement: Deep & precise. Uncompromising = What the Bible means.

[Note: The Cake Analogy—all bakers would agree—a cake = flour, baking powder, eggs, milk, sugar. Everyone also agrees that the mix must be baked (belief statement). So, is that it? Do the details matter or do they just create division among bakers? Yes, the details matter (doctrine). Flavoring, coloring, & proportions. Details like: the type of flour, milk, eggs. Icing. The occasion & purpose of the cake. The time and temperature. Even the size and shape of the pan matters. Sometimes, an adjustment for altitude!]

2. A proclaimed justification for avoid doctrine is that "Doctrine Divides". Is that true? Actually, Yes.

2a. Then why should a church continue in deep, uncompromising sound doctrine? Division isn't (always) a bad thing. We must separate from the world, from false teachers, and from unbiblical churches. See 2 Corinthians 6:14-18.

3. Review and discuss the *Downward Spiral* statements from Sunday:

- Weak View of Scripture = Weak Doctrine
- Weak Doctrine = Weak View of Sinful Self and of Holy God
- Weak View of Sinful Self and of Holy God = Weak Preaching
(and all other Christian/church disciplines)
- Weak Preaching = Weak Christians/Congregations. See also *Ephesians 4:11-16*
- Weak Christians = Weak Testimony to the World

4. While they had many doctrinal issues, what topic does Paul rebuke the Corinthians over in chapter 11 of his first letter? Their understanding and practice of the Lord's Supper.

4a. What were the consequences of their lack of sound doctrine? See *1 Corinthians 11:30*. Many in their church had become weak, sick, and some even died!

5. Historic examples the importance of doctrine: Catholics/Protestants, Calvinists/Arminians, & Cessationists/Continuationists all believe in the Bible, Jesus Christ, atonement, grace, the Holy Spirit, heaven, and hell. So, does anything else really matter? Should we even concern ourselves with the details? Absolutely. Discuss: The Solas vs Catholicism & Tulip vs Arminianism