

## THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST

Proponents of the change agenda blame all our divisions and disagreements on our emphasis on doctrine. Their solution is to place a low premium on doctrine and concentrate on believing in and loving Jesus. While this approach sounds like a very practical solution to our problems of discord, it runs contrary to the teaching of Christ and his apostles

The meaning of the word “doctrine” is significant. Webster explains it to be: “a principle or position, or the body of principles in a branch of knowledge or system of belief...a statement of fundamental government policy...” The biblical term is *didache* which means “ the act of teaching or that which is taught.”

Consider what the Spirit of God says about the doctrine we hold and teach:

**There is the “doctrine of Christ” in which we must abide** if we wish to be in good standing with the Father and Son (II John 9). This is the teaching which Christ himself gave or else authorized his apostles to deliver to us (I Cor. 14:37). It constitutes our New Testament. It **originated with God** in heaven (John 7:16). Paul called this “**sound or healthy doctrine**” (Tit. 1:9). It **nourishes the soul** of man (I Tim. 4:6). This healthy doctrine **must be held and taught by faithful Christian leaders** and imparted to those they lead (Tit. 2:1). This alone is the “**doctrine which is according to godliness**” (I Tim. 6:3).

**There is “false doctrine”** which is propagated by false teachers (II Pet. 2:1). False doctrine is “**contrary to” sound doctrine** (Rom. 16:17). It is a “**different doctrine**” than that which God gave and intends for his church to hold (I Tim. 1:3). It is doctrine that flows from the mind of mortal man rather than from the Spirit of God (Matt. 15:9). It is **demonic in origin** (I Tim. 4:1). False doctrine “**corrupts” the doctrine of Christ** (Tit. 2:7). There are specific false doctrines peculiar to particular sects of religion. Jesus warned against the **doctrine of the Pharisees** (Matt. 16:12) and the **doctrine of Balaam** (Rev. 2:14). We could add the false doctrines promoted by hundreds of religious bodies founded by uninspired men.

The doctrine of Christ is something **to be taught and learned** (Tit. 1:9; I Tim. 1:3). It is **to be obeyed** (Rom. 6:17) if one wishes to be free from the bondage of sin. We must **hold the pure doctrine** of Christ in our hearts and **abide therein** (II John 9) if we would stay in good standing with the Savior. We must always **be open and receptive to the sound doctrine** of Christ if we would please Him (II Tim. 4:3). We are expected **to adorn our lives with the doctrine** of our Savior (Tit. 2:10). We must be willing to **defend the doctrine** of Christ against those who would corrupt or destroy it (Phil. 1:16). **Should any teacher come to us teaching any other doctrine than that of Christ, we should reject him forthrightly** and extend to him no comfort or encouragement (II John 9). Above all, **we must live our lives and guard our teaching lest by our message or conduct we blaspheme the doctrine** of God (I Tim. 6:1). False doctrine is to be avoided as it will surely set us at odds with the Savior on whom we depend.

These scriptures make it clear that this increment of the change agenda, when weighed in the balance of God’s Word, is found wanting. It is contrary to sound doctrine and consequently stands condemned. The doctrine of Christ, correctly understood and taught, is not the cause of our problems, rather it is the failure on the part of some to honor and respect that sacred body of truth given us by the founder and head of the church. To propose Christianity without doctrine may give the uninformed a warm, fuzzy feeling but it is totally void of truth and substance. The fact is, the promoters of this view wish to be rid of unpopular Bible doctrines so they can, without hindrance, implement their own.

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