

The Importance Of Sound Doctrine

It is impossible to overemphasise the importance of sound doctrine in the life of a Christian.

Right thinking about all spiritual matters is imperative if we would have right living.

The word “*doctrine*” simply means religious beliefs taught and held.

A precise agreement between belief and truth as expressed in God’s Word, the Christian Bible, constitutes soundness in doctrine.

Anything less is not sound doctrine.

All the apostles not only taught the truth as they were led by the Holy Spirit [**John 16:13; 2 Peter 1:20-21**] but they constantly contended for its purity against any who would corrupt it. [**Galatians 1:6-12; Romans 16:17; 1 Timothy 1:3; 1 Timothy 6:3-5; Titus 2:7; 2 John 9**]

All of the apostle Paul’s epistles resist every effort of false teachers to introduce doctrinal vagaries.

The epistles of the apostle John are sharp with condemnation of those teachers who harassed the young church by denying the incarnation [1 John 2:21-23] and throwing doubts upon the doctrine of the Trinity. [1 John 4:1-3, 14-16; 1 John 5:6-8]

Jude in his brief but powerful epistle pours scorn upon evil teachers who seek to mislead the young Christians.

Each generation of Christians must look to its beliefs.

While the truth as recorded in God’s Word, the Christian Bible, itself is unchanging, the minds of humans are porous and allow truth to leak out and error to seep in to dilute the truth that remains.

The human heart and mind is heretical by nature and if unattended by lack of study of God’s Word, the Christian Bible, it will run to error as naturally as an unattended garden will soon be overcome with weeds.

In every human thought or activity accuracy is considered an essential virtue to avoid loss or danger.

Only in religious thought is faithfulness to truth looked upon as a fault.

[Please download and study our article ‘*Dogmatism*’ listed under the sub-heading ‘*Human Nature*’]

When people deal with temporal earthly things they demand the truth, but when they consider eternal heavenly matters they react as if the truth either cannot be discovered or didn’t really matter.

Isn’t this a proof of unbelief in a Creator God?

An unbelieving person is willing to risk the displeasure of a God who may not exist rather than that of other humans who obviously exist.

I think that this basic unbelief is the back of human carelessness in matters of religion and sound doctrine.

The scientist, the physician, the navigator, deal with matters they know are real and because these things are real the world demands that both teacher and practitioner are skilled in the knowledge of them.

The teacher of spiritual things is only required to be unsure in their beliefs, ambiguous in their remarks and tolerant of every religious opinion expressed by anyone, even by people least qualified to hold an opinion.

Haziness of doctrine has always been the mark of the liberal person.

When the Holy Scriptures [the Christian Bible] are rejected as the final authority on religious belief something must be found to take their place.

Historically that something has been either human reason or sentiment. If sentiment, it has been humanism.

Sometimes we find a mix of humanism and human reason in today's liberal denominations.

The Christian Bible is not quite rejected but it is not accepted as the standard by which all doctrine is founded.

The result is an unclear body of beliefs where anything may be true but nothing may be trusted as being certainly true.

Certain evangelicals appear to be under the impression that they are "*advanced thinkers*", **because they are rethinking evolution and re-evaluating various doctrines found in the Christian Bible.**

Even divine inspiration of the scriptures itself is questioned.

Such people are far from being "*advanced thinkers*," they are merely timid followers of modernism having been brainwashed by modern thoughts of humans who do not acknowledge the existence of a Creator God.

Any doctrinal beliefs that are held by such people are so diluted as to be impossible of clear definition.

Moral power has always been accompanied with definitive beliefs.

Great Christian leaders have always been dogmatic as to Christian doctrines, standing firm on the God-inspired scriptures that are true and eternal.

Only when the Word of God, the Christian Bible, is the bedrock of all doctrine can we be sure of the truth and be freed from deception and error.