

1.

WHAT WE BELIEVE: DISTINCTIVES

Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them...

1 Timothy 4:16 (NIV)

I. Christian

If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9

"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Acts 4:12

II. Protestant

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. Ephesians 2:8-9

III. Fundamentalism

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

IV. Reformed

- 5 Sola Statements: Scriptura, Gratia, Fide, Christos, Deo Gloria
- 5 Points of Calvinism: Total Depravity, Unconditional Election, Limited Atonement, Irresistible Grace, Perseverance of the Saints

V. Baptist

"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you" Matthew 28:18-20

VI. Independent: _____

VII. Presbytery

For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you. Titus 1:5

VIII. Dispensational

...you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets. Ephesians 3:2-5

The Church is the Church. Israel is Israel.

IX. Creedal: _____

X. Cessationist: _____

XI. Church Discipline

Jesus: "And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector." Matthew 18:17

2.

WHAT WE BELIEVE: Doctrine Matters
History part 1

Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them...
1 Timothy 4:16 (NIV)

- "Doctrine" used 21 Times in the New Testament
- 15 of those occurrences are in the Pastoral Epistles
[1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, & Titus]

You, however, must teach what is appropriate to sound doctrine. Titus 2:1 (NIV)

<u>Defender</u>	<u>False Doctrine/Movement</u>
• Paul	Legalism

Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh? Galatians 3:3

You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law: you have fallen from grace. Galatians 5:4

- The Early Church Gnosticism & Arianism

See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ. Colossians 2:8 (NIV)

For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. 2 John 1:7

Catholicism became Judaism repackaged...
...with Jesus on the Label

<u>Defender</u>	<u>False Doctrine/Movement</u>
• Reformers	Tradition

Jesus: "You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions!" Mark 7:9 (NIV)

For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus. 1 Timothy 2:5

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. Ephesians 2:8-9

The Objective: Put the Scriptures in the hands of the People...
...and in their Language.

The Objection: Laypersons reading the Scriptures
on their own...

...will form all kinds of wild and false interpretations.

- The Rise of Denominationalism & Disunity

3.

WHAT WE BELIEVE: Doctrine Matters
History part 2

Defender _____ False Doctrine/Movement

- Spurgeon (1834-1897) Liberalism
- Definition: _____

Modernist
Downgrade Controversy
Finney

But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves...lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— having a form of godliness but denying its power. 2 Timothy 3:1-2, & 5 (NIV)

- Its Toxicity

"Everywhere is apathy. Nobody cares whether that which is preached is true or false. A sermon is a sermon whatever the subject: only the shorter is it the better." --Spurgeon

- Machen (1881-1937) Liberalism

Paul: "For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves." Acts 20:29-30

- Its Sinisterness

"The chief modern rival of Christianity is "liberalism." An examination of the teachings of liberalism in comparison with those of Christianity will show that at every point the two movements are in direct opposition." ---Machen

Defender _____ False Doctrine/Movement

- Chafer (1871-1952) Liberal Education

"Bible doctrines are the bones of revelation and the attentive Bible student must be impressed with the New Testament emphasis on "sound doctrine". Not knowing the doctrines of the Bible, the child of God will be, even when sincere, 'tossed to and fro...' ...modern cults and heresies being sufficient proof"
--Chafer

- Sproul (1939-2017) Liberalism
& MacArthur Pragmatism/Practicalism
Charismatics

Paul: "For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God." Acts 20:27

For the time will come when people 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 (NIV)

- Its Popularity

"This liberal agenda has by no means disappeared from the life of the church. It has gained almost total control of the mainline denominations and has made its influence felt strongly within evangelical circles." --Sproul

"Real success is not getting results at any cost. It is not prosperity, power, prominence, popularity, or any other worldly notions of success. Real success is doing the will of God regardless of the consequences." --MacArthur

4.

WHAT WE BELIEVE: Doctrine Divides

Modern church quotes:

- "Deeds not Creeds"
- "Unity at all Costs"
- "Love Unites. Doctrine Divides"

Question: Is That Division a Bad Thing?

Question: Which Party is Being Divisive?

Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple. Romans 16:17-18

Question: How Dangerous are False Teachers?

Jesus: "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves." Matthew 7:15

Paul to the Ephesian elders: "For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also, from among yourselves, men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears. So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the Word..." Acts 20:29-31

Question: Are we just Being Unloving/Intolerant?

What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? God will judge those outside. 1 Corinthians 5:12-13 (NIV)

Error vs. False

Question: How Far are we to go in Dividing?

Your boasting is not good. Don't you know that a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough? Get rid of the old yeast, so that you may be a new unleavened batch—as you really are. 1 Corinthians 5:6

He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds. 2 John 1:9-11

Warn a divisive person once, and then warn them a second time. After that, have nothing to do with them. You may be sure that such people are warped and sinful; they are self-condemned. Titus 3:10-11 (NIV)

If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments...From such withdraw yourself. 1 Timothy 6:3-5

There are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed. Galatians 1:7-9

5.

THE BIBLE: THE WORD OF GOD

Jesus: "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your Word is truth."
John 17:17

Bible Doctrines

- Inspiration

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God... 2 Timothy 3:16

- Greek: *theopneustos* = God Breathed

Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. 2 Peter 1:20-21 (NIV)

- Self Claims

"Thus says the LORD" = 431 times!

God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son... Hebrews 1:1-2

- External Evidence

- Archeology
- History
- Prophecy

- Verbal: _____
- Plenary: _____
- Inerrant: _____
- Sufficiency: _____

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

- The Perspicuity of Scripture = Its Clarity

"...those things which are necessary to be known, believed, and observed, for salvation, are so clearly propounded and opened in some place of Scripture or other, that not only the learned, but the unlearned, in a due use of the ordinary means, may attain unto a sufficient understanding of them"

Westminster Confession of Faith—Chapter 1

- Illumination

These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. 1 Corinthians 2:13-14

For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 2 Corinthians 4:6

6.

THE BIBLE: GOD REVEALED

1. Natural Revelation

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse...

Romans 1:18-20

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.
Psalm 19:1-4 (NIV)

2. Divine (Special*) Revelation

God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds. Hebrews 1:1-3

For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Hebrews 4:12

A. Divine Revelation: Its Purpose

- Soli Deo Gloria = For the Glory of God Alone

B. Divine Revelation: Its Subject & Theme

- Jesus Christ

And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself...He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me." And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. Luke 24:27 & 44-45

- Saving the Children of God

Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved...For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures... 1 Corinthians 15:1-3

But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." John 6:68

- Unto Obedience to the Word (Sanctification)

*Jesus: "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth."
John 17:17*

Jesus: "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock." Matthew 7:24 (NIV)

7.

THE TRIUNE GOD

- Holy
- Omniscient
- Omnipotent
- Omnipresent

- Trinity

"I think [the doctrine of the Trinity] to be the highest and deepest of all Divine mysteries" --Jonathan Edwards

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!"
Deuteronomy 6:4

- Not Three Gods. One God in Three Persons

1. From the Beginning

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness..." Genesis 1:26

Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil..." Genesis 3:22

2. From the Prophets

"The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on Me, because the LORD has anointed Me to proclaim good news to the poor." Isaiah 61:1 & Luke 4:18 (NIV)

3. From the Gospels

...it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened. And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased." Luke 3:21-22

Jesus: "And, I will pray [to] the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth..." John 14:16-17

Jesus: "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth..."

Authority Given From Whom?

- Himself?
- Man?
- Satan?

...Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" Matthew 28:18-19

4. From the Epistles

For through Him (Jesus) we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. Ephesians 2:18

5. From the Recognized History

- The Nicene Creed
- The Westminster Confession of Faith
- The Baptist Faith and Message

8.

God the Father

Misconceptions:

- The Universal Fatherhood of God
- A Universal Brotherhood of Man

Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me. Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word. You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do." John 8:42-44

A. Father of Creation (Physically)

And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. Genesis 2:7

...the son of Enosh, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God. Luke 3:38

B. Father of Intimate Relationship (Israel)

Then you shall say to Pharaoh, "Thus says the LORD: "Israel is My son, My firstborn. So I say to you, let My son go that he may serve Me." Exodus 4:22

God: "He (Solomon) shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his Father, and he shall be My son." 2 Samuel 7:13-14

C. Father of Jesus Christ (Begotten)

And the Word (eternal) became flesh (physical) and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

Jesus: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16

- No Earthly Father

Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You." John 17:1

D. Father of the Believers (Election)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will. Ephesians 1:3-5

For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Romans 8:29

But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" Galatians 4:4-6

God the Son—Part 1

1. His Deity

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... John 1:1

- The 7 Great “I AM” Statements in John

Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.” Then they took up stones to throw at Him... John 8:58-59

“We are not stoning you for any good work,” they replied, “but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God.” John 10:33 (NIV)

And Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” John 20:28-29

2. His Incarnation

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law. Galatians 4:4

- Jesus Surrendered only the Prerogatives of Deity, ...not the Divine Essence.

Have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to His own advantage; rather, He made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And, being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death. Philipians 2:5-8 (NIV)

- Fully God & Fully Man

3. His Substitutionary Death

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23

- Atonement—Limited Atonement
- Propitiation

In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 1 John 4:10

God made Him [Jesus] who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV)

God the Son—Part 2

Part 1: His Deity, Incarnation, & Substitutionary Death

Part 2:

If Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise. For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable. But now Christ is risen from the dead...

1 Corinthians 15:14-20

4. His Resurrection

He [Jesus] rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by [Peter], then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me [Paul] also...

1 Corinthians 15:4-8

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live." John 11:25

If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9

God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification. Romans 4:24-25 (NIV)

5. His Ascension & High Priestly Ministry

Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. Acts 1:9

Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man. Hebrews 8:1-2

For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Hebrews 4:15

Because Jesus lives forever, He has a permanent priesthood. Therefore He is able to save completely those who come to God through Him, because He always lives to intercede for them. Hebrews 7:24-25 (NIV)

6. His Return(s)

- For His Saints
- With His Saints

11.

God the Holy Spirit—Part 1

I. His Personality

- Eternality

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God hovering over the face of the waters. Genesis 1:1-2

- Holiness
- Omniscience

But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God...Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.

1 Corinthians 2:10-11

- Creator

By His Spirit, He adorned the heavens... Job 26:13 (& 33:4)

- Humility

Jesus: "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on His own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come. He will glorify Me because it is from Me that He will receive what He will make known to you." John 16:13-14 (NIV)

- Will, Emotions, & Role
- Ministry: Regenerates, Convicts, Illuminates, Comforts, Reminds, Leads, Teaches, Bestows, Empowers, & Seals
- Worthy of Worship, Prayer, & Obedience

II. His Advent*

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Acts 2:1-4

Like Christ, the Holy Spirit has Various Ministries Which Start and Stop

- Old Testament:
 - Anointed/Empowered Kings, Leaders, Servants

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit.

Psalm 51:10-12

- Inspired Prophets & Bible Writers

For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. 2 Peter 1:21

- Gospels:
 - Empowers Jesus & the Apostles
- Church Age:
 - Indwells the Saints

Jesus: "I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you." John 14:16-17

God the Holy Spirit—Part 2

But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. 2 Thessalonians 2:13

- The Creation of the World
- The Creation of the Incarnation
- The Creation of the Believer

III. His Work of Regeneration

When the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior. Titus 3:4-6

Jesus: "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. John 3:3-6

Reformed Theology Pillar: Spiritual Regeneration Precedes Faith

- Regeneration is not an Emotional Experience
- It is a "One and Done" Work
- From Dead to Life
- From Blind to Sight
- From Enemy to Child

IV. His Work of Indwelling

Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. 1 John 4:13 (& 1 John 3:24)

V. His Work of Sealing

Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. 2 Corinthians 1:21-22

Having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory. Ephesians 1:13-14

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Ephesians 4:30

God the Holy Spirit—Part 3

...He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior. Titus 3:5-6

VI. His Baptism

- Comes with Regeneration, but is Not the Regeneration.
- Illustrated by your Water Baptism, but is not your Water Baptism.
- Regeneration is in Relationship to the Spirit.
- Baptism is in Relationship to Christ.

Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Romans 6:1-4

- His Body = Members/Membership/Unity

For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. 1 Corinthians 12:13

- Ministry/Gifts

So in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. Romans 12:5-6 (NIV)

VII. His Filling

But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. 2 Corinthians 4:7 (NIV)

Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. Ephesians 5:18 (NIV)

- Not One-and-Done, but Ongoing.
- Does Not Mean we Get More of the Spirit, but the Spirit Gets More of Us.

Things that Drain the Spirit:

- Time: World, Life, Busyness, Health, Conflict, & Temptations
- Ministry:

She felt in her body that she was healed of the affliction. And Jesus, immediately knowing in Himself that power had gone out of Him... Mark 5:29-30

Great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by Him of their infirmities. So, He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed. Luke 5:15-16

- Sin:

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God...Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. Ephesians 4:30-31

Results of Being Filled:

I say then: Walk in the Spirit...But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Ephesians 5:16 & 22

The Dispensations & The Covenants

If indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery...which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets. Ephesians 3:2-5

1. The Dispensations

- Innocence (Adam & Eve)
- Conscience (Adam's Fall)
- Human Government (Noah)
- Promise/Patriarchs (Abraham)
- Law (Moses)
- Grace (Jesus as Savior)

For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. John 1:17

For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace. Romans 6:14

- Kingdom (Jesus as King)

Blessings of Dispensationalism

- Makes Prophecy Coherent
- Fulfills the Promises of God
- Freedom from the Law

Problems with Dispensationalism

- Freedom from the Law
- Dismissal of Scripture
- Dates & Times

2. The Covenants

- Theological & Biblical

Theological Covenants

- Covenant of Redemption
- Covenant of Works
- Covenant of Grace

Replacement Theology: _____

Biblical Covenants—Conditional & Unconditional

- | | | |
|-------------|--------------------|---------------|
| • Edenic | (Adam) | Conditional |
| • Adamic | (Adam's Offspring) | Unconditional |
| • Noahic | (Noah) | Unconditional |
| • Abrahamic | (Abraham) | Unconditional |

"I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." Genesis 12:2-3

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| • Mosaic | (Moses/Israel) | Conditional |
| • Palestinian | (Abraham/Moses) | Unconditional |
| • Davidic | (David) | Unconditional |
| • New Covenant | (Church/Israel) | Conditional & Unconditional |

"Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah—not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers..." Jeremiah 31:31-32

Jesus: "For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." Matthew 26:28

Biblical Doctrine on Angels

1. What are They?

- Angel = Messenger
- Created spiritual beings that minister to God and His people
- Mentioned in Scripture: 273 Times

2. When were They Created?

"Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? ...When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?" Job 38:4 & 7

3. What are They Like?

- Personhood: Emotion, Intellect, & Offer Praise
- Warriors/Battle

Elisha prayed, and said, "LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. 2 Kings 6:17

- Can Manifest Physically
- Only 3 are Named: Michael, Gabriel, & Lucifer

4. How are They Organized?

- Ranks, Class, and Order
 - Archangel
 - Seraphim & Cherubim
 - Principalities & Powers

5. What do they do?

- Ministers

Then he said to me, "See that you do not do that. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book." Revelation 22:9

- Messengers

The angel answered and said to him, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and was sent to speak to you and bring you these glad tidings." Luke 1:19

- Guardians

The angel of the LORD encamps all around those who fear Him, and delivers them. Psalm 34:7

Jesus: "See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of My Father in heaven." Luke 18:10 (NIV)

Also they affect Kingdoms, Culture, & Climate

6. How Many are There?

Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels...and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands... Revelation 5:11 [Psalm 68:17 & Hebrews 12:22]

7. Why do we not Study about Them?

8. What's to be my relationship with them?

- Don't Try to Engage, Communicate, or Worship
- Don't Believe Most of the Stories
- Historically, Seeing them Induced Absolute Terror
- We are Unaware of Most Encounters

Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels. Hebrews 13:2

The Devil & Demons

Jesus: "You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies." John 8:44 (NIV)

- He Is
- He Controls
- He Kills
- He Lies
 - Satan (Adversary)
 - Devil (Accuser/Slanderer)
 - Dragon (Serpent)

I. His History

"You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; you were on the holy mountain of God; you walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you." Ezekiel 28:14-15

"How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.' Isaiah 14:12-15

- His Army/Cohorts/Network: The Demons

II. His Relationship to the Elect

- Adversary
- Accuser
- Tempter

And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat." Luke 22:31

For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.1 John 3:8

You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. 1 John 4:4

III. His Relationship to the Non-Elect

But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. 2 Corinthians 4:3-4

God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will. 2 Timothy 2:25-26

IV. His Destiny

- Fall From Heaven's Ranks
- Determined Judgment
- Loss of Access to Heaven
- 1000-Year Imprisonment
- Eternity in the Lake of Fire

17.

Man, Sin, & Total Depravity

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned. Romans 5:12

1. Man

So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them...Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. Genesis 1:27

- Spirit/Soul, Volition, Intellect, Worship, Stewardship

What is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him? For You have made him a little lower than the angels, and You have crowned him with glory and honor. Psalm 8:4-5

2. The Fall

And he [the serpent/Satan] said to the woman, "Has God indeed said...?" Genesis 3:1

For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. 1 John 2:16

3. Definition of Sin

Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness. 1 John 3:4

"Any thought, any word, any act, or any omission that is inconsistent with the perfect, holy character of God, or in any way violates His law, is sin." —John MacArthur

4. The Consequences of Sin

- Separation from God & Loss of Eden
- Woman's Sorrow, Pain in Labor, Desire for Husband, & Subjection to Husband
- Work a Cursed Ground with No Guarantee of Produce
- Conflict with Others
- Subjected to the Enemy's Sting & Control
- Death—Physical & Spiritual
- Judgment & Hell

For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die... 1 Corinthians 15:21-22

5. The Degree of Man's Fall/Sin

The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. Genesis 6:5

Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. Psalm 51:5 (NIV)

And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. Ephesians 2:1-3

Reformed Doctrine: Total Depravity

**Salvation:
Election, Atonement, Grace, & Security**

*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
Romans 3:23*

For the wages of sin is death. Romans 6:23

*For by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.
Galatians 2:16*

*For He [the Father] made Him [Jesus] who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.
2 Corinthians 5:21*

Salvation through: Imputed Righteousness

I. Election

Jesus: "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him." John 6:44

He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will. Ephesians 1:4-5

- Our Election is **Unconditional**

For the children not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls. Romans 9:11

II. Atonement

In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 1 John 4:10

- A Limited (Definite) Atonement

Jesus: "I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep." John 10:14-15

III. Grace

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. Ephesians 2:8-9

- An Irresistible Grace

Jesus: "All those the Father gives me will come to me..."
John 6:37 (NIV)

Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed. Acts 13:48

IV. Security

Jesus: "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand." John 10:28-29

- An Immutable Security

Doctrine on The Church: Her Meaning, Founding, Role, & Ordinances

1. Her Meaning

- Greek: ekklēsia = Called out ones. Unto assembly
- First Use: *Jesus: "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it." Matthew 16:18*
- What She is Not: Old Testament Judaism Repackaged.
Rituals, Rules, & Robes

2. Her Founding

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit... Acts 2:1-4

They continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers...So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved. Acts 2:42, & 46-47

- Discipleship
- Fellowship
- Worship
- Evangelism
- (Ministry)

3. Her Role

- The Wisdom and The Word of God

Jesus said to [Peter], "Feed My sheep." John 21:17

...the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. Ephesians 3:10-11

- The Body of Christ

He [Father] put all things under His [Jesus] feet, and gave Him [Jesus] to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all. Ephesians 1:22

- The Restoring of Wayward

Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. Galatians 6:1-2

4. Her Ordinances

- The Lord's Supper

For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes. 1 Corinthians 11:26

- The Bread
- The Cup
- Symbolic

- Baptism (sermon in February)
 - Into Formal Fellowship (Membership)
 - Testimonial
 - Believer's
 - Immersion

Doctrine on The Church—Part 2

Her Organization

You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 2:5

Foundation, Frame, Facade, & Furnishings

I. The Foundation:

For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 3:11

II. The Frame:

He [Paul] sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church...“Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.” Acts 20:17 & 28

- Presbytery, Episcopal, & Shepherds
 - Plurality & Male

II a. Function: To Equip the Saints

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying [building up] of the body of Christ. Ephesians 4:11-12

III. The Furnishings:

III a. Deacons

“It is not desirable that we should leave the Word of God and serve tables. Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the Word.” Acts 6:2-4

III b. Members & Ministers

Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. Ephesians 2:19-22

III c. Spiritual Gifts

But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all. 1 Corinthians 12:7

IV. The Facade:

And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. Colossians 4:3-6 (NIV)

Doctrine on The Church—Part 3 Worship

Jesus: "But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

John 4:23-24

- No Longer Confined to a Place, a People, or a Procedure
- But, Dependent on Relationship & Holy Scripture

Jesus: "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your Word is truth."

John 17:17

Acts of Worship

- Ordinances: Baptism & The Lord's Supper
- The Offering
- Prayer
- Hearing the Word (Sunday and Bible Study)
- Fellowship, Ministry, & Evangelism
- Testimony (Spoken and Sung)
 - Song, Dance, Clapping, Raising of Hands, Tears, Shouts, & Instruments

But I, by your great love, can come into your house; in reverence I bow down... Psalm 5:7 (NIV)

For God is not a God of disorder but of peace—as in all the congregations of the Lord's people...But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.

1 Corinthians 14:33 & 40 (NIV)

The Subject, Issues, & Controversy of Music

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord, Colossians 3:16

- "New Song" (10 times) vs. "Psalms" (8 times)
- Variety, Adaptable*, Language, Not Prescribed/By Rote
- Songs about God vs. Songs to God*
- Nothing Wrong with Emotion...but Error in Extremes
- Became as Divisive or More than Doctrine.

Contemporary Issues with Preaching:

- Lack of Substance
- Deviating from the Word
- Never Mention Sin, Judgment, or Hell
- Focused on the Hearer
- Feel Good = Positive vs. Biblical
- God Loves Everyone Equally—No Need for Change
- Topical vs. Expository
- Psychology, Pragmatism, & Practicalism

Truth Trend:

- The Exact Same Issues, Now, with Music.
- Call for Discernment
- Error on the Side of Reverence

All things are lawful, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful, but not all things edify. 1 Corinthians 10:23 [& 6:13]

Doctrine Matters: Sanctification

To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Corinthians 1:2

- To Set Apart (from the common or sinful)
- Holy/Holiness
- Saint

For this is the will of God: your sanctification...

1 Thessalonians 4:3

But as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, "Be holy, for I AM holy."

1 Peter 1:15-16 [Leviticus 11, 19, & 20]

3 Stages of Sanctification

1. A Positional Sanctification

By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. Hebrews 10:10

And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God. (Note: all past tense)

1 Corinthians 6:11

2. A Progressive Sanctification

For by one offering He has perfected (past tense) forever those who are being sanctified. (present tense)

Hebrews 10:14

Therefore, since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.

2 Corinthians 7:1 (NIV)

How Do I Cooperate with God's Process?

- Submission
- Yielding
- Dying

3. A Perfected Sanctification

Abstain from every form of evil. Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Thessalonians 5:22-23

Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption...For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 1 Corinthians 15:50-53

Beloved, now we are children of God [positional]; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him [perfected], for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself [progressive], just as He is pure. 1 John 3:2-3

Doctrine Matters: Money & Giving

God's View of Money/Wealth:

All His Anyway:

"The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine," says the LORD of hosts. Haggai 2:8

A Tool/Amoral:

*For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil...
1 Timothy 6:10*

Ability to Acquire

Work: _____

Saving/Planning:

There is desirable treasure, and oil in the dwelling of the wise; but a foolish man squanders it. Proverbs 21:20

Giving/Blessing:

Job has good reason to fear God. You have always put a wall of protection around him and his home and his property. You have made him prosper in everything he does. Job 1:9-10 (NLT)

Attitudes Toward Money

Steward/Manager: _____

Contentment: _____

Extremes:

Give me neither poverty nor riches—...lest I be full and deny You, and say, "Who is the LORD?" Or lest I be poor and steal, and profane the name of my God. Proverbs 30:8-9

Obstacles to Giving

Loss: _____

Lazy: _____

Gluttony: _____

Idols:

Jesus: "You cannot serve both God and money." Luke 6:13 (NIV)

Model for Giving

Gladly:

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7 (NIV)

Sacrificially:

David: "No, I insist on buying it, for I will not present...offerings to the LORD my God that have cost me nothing." 2 Samuel 24:24 (NLT)

Proportionally:

On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income. 1 Corinthians 16:2

Use of Giving

Ministry: _____

Liabilities: _____

Teaching the Word:

Elders who do their work well should be respected and paid well, especially those who work hard at both preaching and teaching. 1 Timothy 5:17 (NLT)

Doctrine Matters: The Sabbath And the Lord's Day

- Sabbath = to rest/to cease

God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.
Genesis 2:3

- Time: Sundown Friday to Sundown Saturday
- First Use: Exodus 16 (manna collection)
- First Command: Exodus 20 [Some 3000 years later?]

"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy." Exodus 20:8

Concerning the Sabbath and the Church

1. The Grain Controversy

"For the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath." Matthew 12:8

- Purposely & Repeatedly Healed on the Sabbath.

2. No New Testament Command, Anywhere, About the Church Keeping the Sabbath.

3. The Circumcision Controversy

For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things: that you abstain from things offered to idols, from blood, from things strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Acts 15:28-29

4. Direct New Testament Teaching

So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.

Colossians 2:16-17

Concerning the Lord's Day and the Church

5. Jesus Rose on the First Day of the Week

6. The Apostles Practice

Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul...spoke to them... Acts 20:7

7. Paul's Doctrine on Giving

On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income...

1 Corinthians 16:2 (NIV)

8. John's Use of "Lord's Day" in Revelation

"I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day..." Revelation 1:10

9. Earliest Church Father's Writings

- Command or Adaptable?

10. The Reformers Corrections

- Commands about Doing Church, but None about Sunday
- Wisdom in Rest

[Jesus] said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath." Mark 2:27

- As Christians, Every Day is the Lord's...Not one Day

Doctrine Matters: Baptism

The Command:

Jesus: "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you" Matthew 28:18-20

The Controversies:

- Symbolic or Supernatural
- Mode and Method
- Infant or Believer's

Biblical Teaching/Doctrine

The Meaning:

- *baptizo* = to immerse/to saturate

...both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. Now when they came up out of the water... Acts 8:38-39

The Significance:

- Testimony to the World and the Church

If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.
Romans 10:9-10

- Demonstrates Our Union with Christ

We were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection. Romans 6:4-5

- Symbolic with Reality

Peter: "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Acts 2:38

- Does Not Save You
- Does Not Empower You
- Does Not Need Repeating

Jesus: "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me." Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "He who is bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean..." John 13:8-10

Reasons Why I'm Not Baptized

- 1. Ignorance: _____
- 2. Pride: _____
- 3. Indifference: _____
- 4. Defiance: Holy Spirit convicting me of my current sin
- 5. Unregenerate: _____
- 6. Logistics: no facilities, service, or opportunity

Challenge: Read/review the Scriptures cited here. Pray about your reason. Seek counsel from another believer. Tell God yes or no.

Doctrine Matters: Israel

1. The Calling & Blessing of Israel

God: "I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." Genesis 12:2-3

Unconditional

2. The Name of Israel

And He said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed." Genesis 32:28

= God's Fighter or Struggles with God

3. The Extent of Israel

On the same day the LORD made a covenant with [Abraham], saying: "To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates." Genesis 15:18

4. The Eternality of Israel

God: "Also I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God." Genesis 17:8

5. The Why of Israel

"For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; but because the LORD loves you". Deuteronomy 7:6-8

Unconditional Sovereign Election

6. The Remembrance of Israel

...blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And, so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "...for this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins." Concerning the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but concerning the election they are beloved for the sake of the fathers. For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Romans 11:25-29

Dispensationalism: Israel is Israel

And the Church is the Church

7. The Restoration of Israel

"...And, because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers...Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant..." Deuteronomy 7:8-9

1948

8. The Lessons of Israel

- The Evidence of Biblical Truth
- The Key to Understanding Prophecy
- The Guarantee God will Chastise Those He loves
- The Implications of Broken Covenant:
 - If God can Break His Covenant Israel,
 - Then He can Break it With His Elect Church
 - = We Have No Assurance of Salvation

Doctrine Matters: Sound Doctrine and the Believer

Sound Doctrine Inside the Church

I. Direction of the Modern/Future Church:

Expose the Liberal, Ecumenical, & Superficial

Some, having strayed, have turned aside to idle talk, desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say nor the things which they affirm. But we know that the law is good if one uses it lawfully, knowing this: that the law is not made for a righteous person, but for the lawless and insubordinate, for the ungodly and for sinners, for the unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, for fornicators, for sodomites, for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurers, and if there is any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine. 1 Timothy 1:6-10

- "Doctrine Divides, but Love Unites"
- "Deeds not Creeds"

II. Discernment:

Examine the Fake, the Fluff, & the False

Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. But you be watchful in all things... 2 Timothy 4:2-5

For what have I to do with judging those also who are outside? Do you not judge those who are inside? But those who are outside God judges. 1 Corinthians 5:12-13

III. Demand:

Expect It, Absorb It, & Live It

For a [Pastor, Elder, Overseer] must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled, holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict. But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine. Titus 1:7-9 & 2:1

Sound Doctrine Outside of the Church

A. In the World, Not of the World

Jesus: "I have given them Your Word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world." John 17:14

B. Ambassador Mindset

Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:20

C. Serving in Unity

And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. Colossians 3:17

D. Prepared for Persecution

In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. 2 Timothy 3:12 (NIV)