



Doctrine: Believers
From sermon 2.23.20

Read 2 Timothy 4:2-5

Questions and Review from Sunday's sermon: New Heights has had to review, resolve and repent many of our practices, over the years, based on doctrine. Sound doctrine isn't just for the "church", but for individual believers. It affects every aspect of our lives and faith. A main indicator of the magnitude of sound doctrine is how much the enemy attacks it—historically and today.

What two frightening trends have we seen regarding sound doctrine-teaching churches? 1) they are dying every day/week. Churches are either transforming themselves into seeker-sensitive or Liberal theology to draw a crowd, or they close their doors due to attrition. 2) the giants of true faith are aging and one goes home to the Lord each generation. [on a good note: guys like Sproul and MacArthur have raised up incredible, godly men to come in behind them—you just may not know their names yet] See also 2 Timothy 2:2

Discuss Church shopping & Consumer Christianity: Various answers. In our day and age, there are so many Church choices, but no denominational/doctrinal convictions. People church shop based on facilities, friendliness, acceptance, non-committal, low pressure, entertaining, programs...almost no asks for potential church's doctrinal statement, distinctives, or history.

Share what you've learned from doctrine series: _____

Share what areas you want/need to study more: _____

What do we mean when we say New Heights is...[why does each matter?]

- Presbyterian—we believe the local church should be led/pastored by a plurality of biblically qualified male elders. Appointed by that local church, however.
- Dispensational— Particularly in Bible prophecy, we believe Israel to be Israel and the Church to be the Church. the Church does not replace, but joins Israel in the New Covenant.
- Reformed—we believe and teach the 5 Sola Statements and 5-point Calvinism.
- Baptist—we practice baptism by immersion and that only on a professing believer.
- Cessationist—we believe the miraculous spiritual gifts (tongues, prophecy, healing, & miracles) ceased with the closing of the Canon of Scripture and the end of the Apostolic Age.

Read *Titus 1:7-2:1*. What is the biblical expectation and demand on all Pastor/teachers? They must be holy, decent, honest people who hold faithfully to the Word of God. they must point out error in all instances. Is New Heights being mean/divisive in pointing out false teachers?

What is the church culture saying when it proclaims "Doctrine Divides, but Love Unites"? Various answers. that doctrine doesn't matter. It's just a trivial matter of interpretation, taste, or style. If we hold to uncompromising doctrine, many will feel excluded.

What were some ways, mentioned on Sunday, that our doctrine applies outside the Church? to remember that we are in the world, not of the world. Keep an Ambassador Mindset. To keep serving in the church and in the community/not talk bad of the church or members. Be ready now for persecution from the world.