



Doctrine Matters: Doctrine Divides
From sermon 8.4.19

Read *Romans 16:17-18*

Questions, Answers, and Review from Sunday' sermon: The modern liberal church has several mottos claiming they desire unity and accusing doctrine as being the divider. We agree that sound, biblical doctrine divides. What we disagree on is whether or not that division is a bad thing. Scripture cites numerous passages where we are commanded to separate from false doctrine.

Within the Church community, we have been force-fed to believe the doctrine-holding fundamentals are the ones being divisive. But, according to the Romans passage we just read, who's the real culprit? (the liberals) See also *1 Timothy 6:3-5*. Discuss

Read *Luke 12:49-53*. What families is Jesus referring to? 1st Century Jewish families only? No. Anywhere there is true, Christ-following, Bible-believing members trying to co-exist with non-believers...even very religious non-believers. Point: following the Biblical Jesus and His Word will always cause division. He do not instruct us to compromise doctrine for unity.

The liberal church has also accused fundamentalists as being unloving. But, on Sunday, what was presented as the "most unloving thing" you can do? Not pointing out error is the most unloving thing. People's eternity is at stake. We cannot just address their physical needs and ignore their spiritual for the sake of harmony and unity. See *1 Corinthians 5:12-13*

Has the conservative church, at times, been unloving and harsh? List some examples. Yes. Various examples See *1 Peter 3:15*

Read *2 John 1:9-11*. Is the Bible saying we shouldn't let friends and family who disagree with our doctrine into our homes? No. The Holy Spirit is having John refer to teachers. Hosting them is helping them. Is it okay to discuss doctrine with family and friends? Yes. It's how we witness and teach. But, argument and reason never changed a heart. That is only the work of the Holy Spirit and Divine election. (pastor charley does believe, however, most Christians should not invite in/engage in debate with the cults knocking on our doors each week.) We are certainly not to let false doctrine teacher or believers join the Church.

What is the difference between an error in doctrine and a false doctrine? Because God is beyond full human comprehension, we'll never be 100% right on every teaching and aspect = error. But, we must remain teachable and mutable WHEN CLEARLY SHOWN OUR ERROR NEXT TO SCRIPTURE. (not culture) Promoting a false doctrine is that which is clearly outside the Bible and contradicts its orthodox teaching. = being un-teachable...cults, liberalism, Rome...

What are some things we could disagree on and still fellowship together? End-times timelines, liberty in food, drink, leisure and recreation, music/worship styles, ...

Read *Romans 14:1-6 & 14-21*

Can we fellowship with Arminians? Let's hope so! We rented from them this year. Yes. They still believe in the inerrancy of Scripture, Divinity and exclusivity of Jesus, salvation by grace alone through faith alone. However, that fellowship has its limits. We still believe Calvinism matters and they should probably not join the church*. Discuss

[* unless no Bible-believing Arminian church available. But, cannot teach/promote views]