

Introduction to Baptist Doctrine

Introduction:

It is important for a Christian to know **what** he believes and **why** he believes it. This course is meant to be an introduction to systematic theology and give understanding of the doctrines of the Word of God. Some of the objectives are:

- To use the Bible skillfully through a sound understanding of basic doctrine.
- To have a greater love for Christ, a greater desire to win the lost, and an appreciation of the necessity for missions from a doctrinal standpoint.
- To create a desire for continued growth in both the spiritual and intellectual realms.

I. Definition of Terms

A. Doctrine

The word "doctrine" is derived from the Latin "docere," meaning "to teach."

The Greek word translated "doctrine" in the Bible is didaskallan" meaning "teaching."

Thus "doctrine" may be defined as "teaching," in particular, BIBLE TEACHING.

B. Theology

The word "theology" is derived from two Greek words, "theos" ("God") and "logos" ("science")

Thus defined, Theology is the "science of God."

C. Dogma

The word "dogma" is a Greek word which means "tenet," or "to think."

Dogma and Doctrine are often used interchangeably, but dogma is best applied to "Church" beliefs.

D. Creed

The word "creed" comes from the Latin "credo," meaning "I believe." It refers to one's personal beliefs about something.

E. Doctrine, Theology, Dogma, and Creed Distinguished

Although often used interchangeably, there are nuances of meaning for each of the words:

1. Doctrine, Dogma, and Creed are the FRUIT of Theology.
Theology says, "Why?" - Doctrine states "What!"

For example, in the field of biology there is a difference between stating that blood is red and asking why blood is red.

2. Doctrine, Dogma, and Creed are fruits from different standpoints.

Doctrine	=	what the <u>BIBLE</u> teaches
Dogma	=	what the <u>CHURCH</u> teaches
Creed	=	what <u>I</u> believe

II. Systematic Theology

A. Bibliology - the Doctrine of the Scriptures

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- B. Theology Proper - the Doctrine of God
- C. Christology - the Doctrine of Christ
- D. Pneumatology - the Doctrine of the Holy Spirit
- E. Anthropology - the Doctrine of Man
- F. Hamartiology - the Doctrine of Sin
- G. Soteriology - the Doctrine of Salvation
- H. Ecclesiology - the Doctrine of the Church
- I. Angelology - the Doctrine of Angels and Satan
- J. Eschatology - the Doctrine of Last Things

III. The Schools of Theology

Theological study is rarely unbiased, Usually it is colored by personal views, which are usually historical and philosophical in nature.

Some of the common standpoints in Theology are:

- A. Roman Catholic Theology
This is theology based upon the traditions of the Church, the decrees of the Popes, and the writings of the Fathers - and the Bible.
- B. Conservative Protestant Theology
This is theology based upon "historic" beliefs and doctrines.
- C. Literal Protestant Theology
Otherwise known as "Modernism," this is theology based upon the reason of man. It is naturalistic (as opposed to supernatural), and is a system of doubt and unbelief as far as the Word of God is concerned.
- D. Reformed Protestant Theology
This is a theology which follows the teachings of John Calvin, and highlights the sovereignty of God in salvation.
- E. Arminian Protestant Theology
Arminian theology is opposed to Calvinism. It is named after Arminius, and highlights the free will of man in salvation.
- F. Neo-Orthodox Theology
This theology attempts to stand between Modernism and Conservatism. It applies a philosophical approach to the Bible.
- G. New Evangelicalism
This is a position, rather than a theology. The New Evangelical is usually Conservative in theology, but cooperates with Liberals and Neo-Orthodox in evangelical endeavor.
- H. Fundamentalist Theology
Fundamentalism derives its name from the so-called "Fundamentals" - an irreducible set of doctrines which must be believed in order to be considered Biblically orthodox. Its greatest failing is that it overlooks the doctrine of the Church.

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I. Bible-Believing Theology

This is the theology of believing what the Bible says - in all things. It ought to be the stand of every Baptist.

IV. The importance of Doctrine

A. It is a Command of God

II Timothy 2:15

B. It is Required of Preachers

Titus 1:9

C. It is Required of All Believers

I Peter 3:15

D. It is Sorely Needed in These Days

I Timothy 4:1, II Timothy 3:1-5, 13, 14; 4:2-3; Jude 3

E. It Produces Men of God

I Corinthians 16:13

F. It Molds Character

Proverbs 23:7

V. Some Rules of Doctrine

A. "if the plain sense makes common sense, seek no other sense lest it all becomes nonsense."

B. "Believe your beliefs and doubt you doubts. Never commit the blunder of believing your doubts and doubting your beliefs."

C. "Make sure you major on the majors - don't major on the minors."

D. "To know things as they are is better than to believe things as they seem."