

Doctrine: False Doctrine Part 3

ANNOUNCE

- Fall Fest servants, thank you. Over 1200 people served.
-

BIBLE PASSAGE

[2Ti 3:13-17 NKJV] 13 But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. 14 But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, 15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

3 Cancerous Christian Doctrines

DEFINITION

Doctrines that get planted and spread through Christian circles but don't accurately reflect biblical truth.

BIBLE PASSAGE

Regarding some of the dangerous doctrines that creep into the church, Paul warns the Corinthians, who were already falling prey, of the characteristics of what these cancerous doctrines look like.

[2Co 11:3-4 NKJV] 3 But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. 4 For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted--you may well put up with it!

Any other doctrine that:

- A. Changes the PERSON of Christ**
- B. Changes the PROCEDURES of the Holy Spirit**
- C. Changes the PURPOSE of the Gospel**

APPLICATION

Last week we began to address several aberrant doctrines that have permeated the church in our era.

- I have spoken directly because I think it's important to be understood, even if others don't agree with you. I have called out some ministries and people by name by way of example. I have tried to do it in a spirit of humility, considering myself and the potential for error that I myself have. Some have struggled and perceived me as being overly

critical or judgmental.

- Now, as a warning, this morning I will continue to be specific about doctrines and errors that are clearly outside biblical, sound doctrine. I won't apologize for that because part of my job is to equip, protect, and inform the sheep so that you can be discerning in these last days. But I will reiterate my heart to you.

[1Ti 1:3-7 NKJV] 3 As I urged you when I went into Macedonia--remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine, 4 nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith. 5 Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith, 6 from which some, having strayed, have turned aside to idle talk, 7 desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say nor the things which they affirm.

Paul exhorted Timothy, a young pastor, to correct error, to do it without partiality or favoritism, and to do it as pleasing God, not man. And notice the motive:

- **5 Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith,**
- That is my purpose and motive. I believe that the way you love people is to speak to them the truth in a humble and objective way. To have a pure heart before the Lord and the gospel, to have a good conscience that the purity of the gospel was not compromised, and to have sincere faith.

This morning might hit close to home for some. I'll be talking about Catholicism a bit, about new age influence in the church, and other things. Just know something, I'm not here to judge you, mock you, or accuse you. I'm here to inform you, expose errors, and point you to biblical truth. If you're challenged or convicted, then, by all means, engage with God, search the scriptures, and dig deeper. If you find me to be in error, come meet with me... as iron sharpens iron, let's dig deeper together.

A

Prosperity Gospel - Changes the purpose of the gospel

DEFINE

I would define such a gospel as one that declares that one of the purposes of the cross of Jesus is to make one materially or financially wealthy on this side of heaven. And it's not always really hidden. A quick amazon search will yield countless books on the subject.

The prosperity doctrine - Diminishes the gospel to a “get rich quick scheme.”

- Jesus’ cross is less about dealing with my sin and more about ensuring that I obtain all of my earthly desires. It advertises all the pleasures of worldly comfort at the expense of Christ’s sacrifice.
- Of course, this teaching appeals to the masses. Who doesn’t want to be healthy, wealthy and without a problem in the world?
- Self-proclaimed teachers and prophets use the carnal desires of people to their advantage and fleece the flock (robbing them) for their own financial gain and power.
- Peter and Jude both describe these people the same way:

[2Pe 2:15 NKJV] 15 They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam the [son] of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;

Balaam in the OT used his “prophet” status to trick Israel into a curse in order to make a few bucks. (Numbers 22)

B Progressive secularism

APPLICATION

Human philosophies disguised as godly principles. The church is not to simply parrot the convictions of a godless world. We are to derive our convictions and worldview from the word of God.

- Of course, last week after the message, I was accused of hating gay people, being a white Christian nationalist, making light of racism, etc.
- It doesn't surprise me because the natural man doesn't receive spiritual truths. So just to be clear:

... I love people whether they are gay or not. I hate the deceptive lie they have

- I love people whether they are gay or not. I hate the deceptive lie they have believed that's ripping them off from freedom and identity in Christ.
- Regarding being a white Christian nationalist, I am white (sorry, I had not control over that), I am a Christian, and I love my nation in that I want all my neighbors to know Jesus and experience the blessing of righteousness in a nation, so if that's what you mean, guilty as charged. Regarding racism, God hates it in every form. I believe that being part of a social, economic, or religious group automatically makes you systemically racist. I think it's a rouse and hypocrisy for the church to bend and concede to the loudest voices out of fear of being misunderstood. I'm certainly not going to apologize for being racist if I'm not, and I'm not going to implement a secular worldview in the church so that non-Christians think I'm more equitable. I'm going to treat others the way Jesus would and invite them into life with Christ, which erases the boundaries of race and unites us all under the banner of God's grace and truth.

[Rom 12:2 NLT] 2 Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

C The Practice of Idolatry

APPLICATION

In the very beginning of God's established law, the precedent was this,

[Exo 20:3-5 NKJV] 3 "You shall have no other gods before Me. 4 You shall not make for yourself a carved image--any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; 5 you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God..."

Idolatry is the essence of a lack of faith in God's supremacy, sufficiency, and exclusivity.

- In Christ, God has granted us all free access to His grace and entrance to His presence to worship him acceptably. And what is the ONLY acceptable way to worship

God? Through the only mediator, Christ Jesus.

Therefore, modern-day idolatry would look like attempting to worship God but worshipping in a way that introduces other intermediaries into the picture.

- For the early church, especially the gentile believers who came out of a polytheistic culture, the true test to complete faith in Christ was the willingness to put aside all other spiritual practices, traditions, or idols associated with false worship. Many people who accepted Jesus wanted just to add Jesus to their spiritual smorgasbord. They still wanted to go to the pagan temples, and adhere to the sexually immoral practices of pagan worship; for the Jew, it was keeping the traditions and rituals of Jewish worship.
- But all of these things detracted from the holiness of Christ and the worthiness of

9:15



EXAMPLES OF IDOLATRY

I bring this up because many today have been led astray in idolatry, and much of it has taken place within the Catholic Church.

- I'll say that I believe it's possible and probable that some in the Catholic Church are truly born again if they have trusted in Jesus, and Jesus alone, for their salvation. But sadly, the Catholic Church as a whole has hindered people from the Kingdom more than it has ushered them in.

[Mat 15:9 NKJV] 9 And in vain they worship Me, Teaching [as] doctrines the commandments of men.' "

[Mat 23:13 NKJV] 13 "But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in.

- **Catholics claim to have the historical faith, but through generations of the traditions of men becoming greater authority than the Word of God, they have become a distortion of the true church.**

APPLICATION

I am not an expert on Catholicism, but can clearly see their practices and doctrine for what it is. It is an aberrant distortion of the true gospel.

1. The veneration of Mary as "Mother of God" and "Intercessor for the saints."

- The Catholics believe that Mary, as a human, had (and has) a distinct and unique relationship with God that differs from any other person.
- The immaculate conception teaches that Mary never suffered from the effects of original sin but was conceived full of grace which contradicts the gospel that ALL have sinned and fallen short of God's glory. The Assumption of Mary declares that because of her own merit, Mary was given the gift of being assumed up into heaven. the church is divided on whether or not she died, but even those who believe she did die, believe she didn't die as a result of sin but to follow in the steps of Jesus. This has no biblical precedence.
- In the present, they believe that Mary can be sought by the believer to provide special intercession on their behalf to God.
- Many Catholics would say that they do not "worship" Mary as they would worship God, but that is beside the point. The bigger question should be, "should I be trusting in any other human being to gain me special favor or merit before God than Jesus?"
- ***The biblical answer is a resounding NO.***

Mary was the most blessed among women in that her special calling on earth was part of God's eternal plan of salvation for the world.

- It's right to applaud Mary's faith and to learn from her example. But at the end of the day, there's NOTHING in the Bible that would indicate to us that she holds some level of higher merit than any other person.
- When Jesus was conceived and born, Jesus was Mary's son. When He was crucified, Jesus became Mary's Savior. When He rose from the dead, Jesus became Mary's Lord. Mary is justified before the Father in the same way that every sinner is, because the blood of Jesus redeemed her.
- Biblically speaking, there should be NO prayers of intercession or requests made to anyone other than Jesus! Jesus is the only qualified mediator between God and us. If you are in Christ, you have His favor and His grace. You don't need extra merit from Mary or any other "Saint," for that matter.

[1Ti 2:5-6 NKJV] 5 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave Himself a ransom for all...

To pray to Mary's favor, grace, or anything else, is an act of idolatry that declares that Jesus is not enough.

QUOTE

“Just like, and more than, every good mother, Mary defends us from danger. She is concerned about us even when we are concentrated on our own things and lose a sense of the way, and when we put not only our health in danger, but also our salvation. Mary is there, praying for us, praying for those who do not pray. To pray with us. Why? Because she is our Mother.”

Pope Francis

APPLICATION

In fact, it seems as though many Catholic traditions and worship practices are designed to minimize the sufficiency of Christ's sacrifice and put hope in man or man's works.

The practice of Confession is another slap in the face of Jesus' sole ability to forgive sin.

One Catholic author writes, *"The purpose of Confession is to reconcile man to God. When we sin, we deprive ourselves of God's grace. And by doing so, we make it even easier to sin some more. The only way out of this downward cycle is to acknowledge our sins, to repent of them, and to ask God's forgiveness. Then, in the Sacrament of Confession, grace can be restored to our souls, and we can once again resist sin."*

- They cite the proclamation of Christ over the original apostles as the institution of this sacrament. Jesus told the first apostles that **"Anything you forgive is forgiven. Any sin you do not forgive will not be forgiven."**
 - We must recognize several things. First, there is no precedent that something Jesus specifically gave the original apostles transfers down to every priest or spiritual authority. I do not expect that my handkerchief or shadow will heal anyone simply because God used Peter in that way.
 - Second, Jesus made it clear that the son of man alone has the power to forgive sins eternally before God. The Apostles, at the church's founding, were given the authority to declare temporal forgiveness or retention of sin for purposes of

church discipline.

- When Peter judged Anania and Saphira for lying to the church and the Holy Spirit, he used this authority. Eternally speaking, only God knows what happened to those two.
- Paul used this special authority as an apostle regarding someone who was sinning in the church or Corinth. As the leader of the church, he declared his forgiveness of a certain wrong so that unity could be restored.
- There is no biblical sense that we are somehow required to confess our sin to some spiritual authority to receive the fullness of God's grace and forgiveness.
- James 5:16 tells us there is healing power in confessing sin to each other, but that's not for forgiveness before God. And certainly, it's not because someone on earth has the authority to declare you forgiven or not before God.
- And regarding penance, you cannot add to the sacrifice of Jesus or your worthiness to receive His forgiveness by praying to Mary, doing good works, or any other number of actions.

[1Jo 1:8-9 NKJV] 8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us [our] sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

APPLICATION

Time does not permit us today to speak of the errors such as

- **The Pope as the Vicar of Christ and Peter** - That the Pope is "in the place of" Christ on the earth over the church. According to Ephesians, the church only has one head, Jesus, and the only true Vicar of Christ is the Holy Spirit.
- **Transubstantiation** - This declares that the communion elements, once blessed by a priest, become, in actuality, the physical body and blood of Jesus. In the 13th session of the Council of Trent in the 16th century, the Catholic Church declared anyone who does not believe this to be literal, "let him be anathema (damned)." This is based on a gross misinterpretation of Jesus' spiritual analogy of the bread and wine at the last supper, but also declares that Jesus becomes "re-sacrificed" upon every communion to apply anew to your sin. The Bible says that Jesus was sacrificed "once, for all," and that communion is a remembrance and recognition of the sufficiency of His sacrifice,
- Sadly, the Catholic church has assumed the role of savior. It doesn't invite people into

a relationship with God through faith in Christ, it invites people to attain salvation through the church's sacraments along with their best good works.

EVANGELICAL IDOLATRY

While we must point out the obvious errors and the direction they've gone, let's not forget to shine the light of God's Word on ourselves. Warren Wiersbe once rightly wrote:

"But before we judge them, perhaps we ought to examine our own lives and churches. Are we permitting religious tradition to blind us to the truth of God's Word? Are we so involved in "Bible study" that we fail to see Jesus Christ in the Word? Does our knowledge of the Bible give us a "big head" or a "burning heart"?"

In today's modern evangelical churches, we may not pray to saints or trust in Mary, but have we not made church in our own image?

- Our venues have become venues of entertainment, not edification.
- Our pastors have become performers and inspirational speakers rather than shepherds and communicators of God's Word.
- Our public praise has become a concert based on our personal musical preferences rather than enthroning a holy and worthy God.
- Services, gatherings, and prayer meetings have been ordered around our convenience to other important life events such as football, kid's soccer games, or our favorite TV show.
- The pews of churches are filled with people who want to be served by paid ministry professionals while never becoming part of the mission of Christ to save and change the world.

We can and should point out the errors of the dead religion around us, but we must also take an honest assessment of the dead religion within us!

D

New Divine Revelation - Changing the Procedures of the Spirit

DEFINITION

This is the idea that the Lord speaks NEW authoritative truth through modern-day Apostles.

- NOW: We do believe the Holy Spirit still actively speaks. We still believe that prophecy takes place... But it's tested for a reason. Is it in line with what God has already authoritatively revealed, or is it a manipulation of scripture, or does it contradict scriptural altogether?

In the early 1990s a new wave of theology started rolling through mostly charismatic and Pentecostal churches in North America.

- On top of being characterized by very strange and wacky demonstrations of worship being attributed to the Holy Spirit, it also carried this idea that the early 2000s marked an apostolic awakening.
- They believed that the offices of apostles and prophets were not being utilized in the church, and they should be.
 - (I agree, the five-fold offices in Ephesians 4 are still valid today). It's HOW they define them that concerns me.
 - One of the main founders of this 3rd wave of apostolic movement, Peter Wagner, writes the general job descriptions of apostles, prophets, and pastors.

Apostles, “apostles can give new divine revelation. But their distinct task is the implementation of the new revelation.”

Prophets, “receive new divine revelation.”

Ok, so the language is a little weird, but we believe that the Lord leads the church's leaders, too, so what's the deal? It gets a little scarier when they get to the pastor's job.

Pastors and teachers, “do not generally receive new divine revelation. Thus, their roles are limited to teaching the new revelation that has been received by the apostles and prophets and the older revelation contained in the Bible.”

Did you catch that? The authority of the modern day apostles and prophets is equal to that

Did you catch that? The authority of the modern-day apostles and prophets is equal to that of the original apostles and prophets.

APOSTLES

It's important to note that the apostolic authority given by Jesus to the 12 apostles and then to Paul was unique only to them.

- Paul was the last one to be commissioned by the risen Jesus to the office of Apostle - **[1Co 15:8-9 NKJV] 8 Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time. 9 For I am the least of the apostles...**
 - While there are modern-day apostles (In that they have a unique authority to lead movements and be leaders of leaders), they are not apostles like the original Apostles were. In other words, what they speak is not the infallible Word of God.
 - So when someone calls themselves an apostle, claims to have special revelation from God that no one else has, and boasts of miracles, signs, and wonders to prove their claims, you REALLY need to do your homework regarding what they are claiming before you receive their authority in your life.
-

LET ME PHRASE IT IN THE FORM OF A QUESTION.

If a modern-day apostle speaks or writes something in a book, should it be added to the canon of scripture? Should we add their book to the Bible?

- If your answer is yes, I fear you have already given them much more credibility than they deserve. If your answer is no, then why would you give credibility to their claims that they are the new apostolic authority in the church in the likeness of the original apostles on which our faith is built?
-

APPLICATION

FALSE PROPHECIES: Many of these so-called prophets have long records of false

prophecies. From Benny Hinn declaring that Fidel Castro would die in the 1990s to Kenneth Copeland's prophecy of the end of COVID, and the false prophecies in between from Benny Hinn, Bill Johnson, Jesse Duplantis, Kim Clement, Creflo Dollar, and countless others, Many so called Apostles and Prophets have made a mockery of God's Word and His Spirit.

- We give the Jehovah's witnesses a hard time about all of their false prophecies.
- We give the Mormons a hard time with their "living apostles" and the authority that they carry.
- Yet we overlook this in our own circles because they say they believe in the apostle's creed.
- On top of that, many leaders associated with this theology adhere to the prosperity doctrine we discussed earlier.

Here are some twisted doctrines from this movement that you need to keep your ears attuned to.

CLAIM: Jesus ceased His divine attributes when He was a man.

TRUTH: Jesus intentionally subjected himself to human weakness, but never ceased to possess the full nature and authority of God.

CLAIM Jesus suffered in Hell after dying on the cross for our sins.

TRUTH: Jesus bore all the punishment for our sin on the cross and preached to those in hades in order to rescue those who had previously died in faith.

CLAIM Jesus became a sinner and was born again so that we could be born again

TRUTH: Jesus bore our sins on the cross to take our rightful judgment so that we might be born again.

CLAIM: You and I are little gods walking around. We should all perform all the miracles and be able to do exactly what Jesus did on earth.

TRUTH: There's only one Jesus, and you aren't Him! While he will empower you with various gifts of the Spirit to do His work according to His will, you are not called to do everything Jesus did.

CLAIM: Because you are born again, you don't need repentance. In fact, you aren't even a sinner anymore.

TRUTH: Though you are forgiven of all your sin and declared righteous in the sight of God, you are still currently being sanctified and need to acknowledge, confess and repent of your sin.

APPLICATION

Again, my desire here is not to discourage you from the prophetic or from the gifts of the Spirit. Paul said,

[1Th 5:19-22 NKJV] 19 Do not quench the Spirit. 20 Do not despise prophecies. 21 Test all things; hold fast to what is good. 22 Abstain from every form of evil.

APPLICATION

Prophecies are real. But the Bible is our guide and our guard when it comes to the prophetic.

E New Age Influence

CONTEXT

In the apostle's day, Gnostics blended aspects of the gospel with aspects of Gnosticism to create this form of Christianity that had Jesus in it but attacked Jesus' divine nature as both fully human and fully God at the same time.

- Jesus was more of a “spirit guide” who only appeared to be human. Scripture can only be understood by “secret revelation” obtained through self-discovery and meditation, similar to Buddhism.
- Gnosticism is still in practice today. Modern gnostic practices include the following (taken from a gnostic website):

QUOTE

“*Spiritual and mystical practices include working with life questions through meditation, silence, concentration, self-observation, out-of-body-experiences, dreams and other spiritual techniques that aid in achieving a transcendental knowledge about destiny and death while still being embodied on Earth.*”

Gnostic Website

APPLICATION

Add these along other modern new-age practices and eastern mysticism, invite those same experiences into the church, and call them the Holy Spirit... this is what many are doing.

This is why Paul warns about those who ***“Introduce another Spirit than the one you have recieved.”***

How does the Holy Spirit work? He works the same way He has always worked; how He worked in the early church. We have the Holy Spirit's work recorded in scripture. Paul spends many chapters specifically discussing how the Spirit moves and works among believers and how He doesn't.

- I hate to say it, but many things I see in churches today that are full of Jesus-loving people, being attributed to the Holy Spirit, are NOT things I see Him demonstrating in the halls of scripture. If they resemble anything, they resemble more of the new age/eastern mystical practices than they do anything biblical.

There are two words I want you to write down and think about:

EXPRESSION & EXPERIENCE

APPLICATION

EXPRESSION: God gives us some freedom to express our worship differently within biblical boundaries.

- Some churches prefer to dance, others prefer to stand.
- Some wave banners, some lift their hands, some clap, some try to clap.
- Some have music, some have just singing. Some are modern, some do hymns.
- Some people are very emotional, others are somewhat stoic and non-emotive.
- **As long as the heart is right and God's Word is being honored, we have certain freedoms of expression.**

EXPERIENCE: There is much less freedom here, and for good reason.

- If we have a spiritual or emotional experience, we need to be able to know if it was from the Lord, from us, or another spirit altogether.
- The problem with our flesh is that we latch onto experiences. If it's an experience we liked, then we will often trust that experience above whether or not it stood up to the test of truth. You frequently hear things like:
 - "Well, the Spirit can work any way He wants. Why should we limit Him."
 - "Let's not put the Spirit into a box."
 - Here's the biggest problem with that SPEaking. By what standards do you measure a move or work of the Spirit? By how you feel? By the reality of an experience?

Well, why did the Spirit limit Himself? The Holy Spirit actually put Himself into a box, I mean, of course, in scripture He inspired.

EXAMPLE: [1Co 14:40 NKJV] 40 Let all things be done decently and in order.

Is that a limitation? Yes.

[1Co 14:33 NKJV] 33 For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.

Is that a limitation? Yes. The Holy Spirit will not initiate something that brings complete confusion to those in the church. Speaking about the gifts and expressions of the Spirit, Paul tells us:

[1Co 14:26 NKJV] 26 ...Let all things be done for edification.

- Now, we must be careful not to put our own limitations on the Spirit. If we put our own preferences and limitations on the Spirit, than we can grieve or quench Him. But if we simply stay within scriptural boundaries, we are acknowledging and honoring Him for Who He already said He is.
- If we take any litmus test away, we can attribute any experience to the Holy Spirit without limit, and you can see where that becomes dangerous.

APPLICATION

When the Spirit moves, real things happen, but those things are not limited to a physical, momentary experience:

- Holiness increases
- Love increases
- Power, courage, and boldness increase

1904-1906 - Welch revival

Evan Roberts preaches a sermon to 17 people about the need to get honest before God. The Holy Spirit moved and awakened their hearts.

- Within six months, 100,000 people were saved.
- Alcoholism dropped by 50%, and the local pubs went out of business.
- Police officers formed singing choirs that traveled to churches because there was no crime.
- People who spent their entire lives in church wept on the ground, repenting of hidden sins and idolatry.
- I want that! Forget casting me down to the ground in holy laughter and animal sounds.

I've gone too long, but when all is said and done, we need to seek, believe and practice doctrine that:

- Honors the person of Jesus
- Honors the purpose of the gospel
- Honors the procedures of the Holy Spirit

There's a good chance I won't preach messages like this for many years unless, of course, we come by them traveling verse by verse through books of the Bible. Trust me, I could weary you for months going over every false doctrine and teacher, but that's not my goal. I aim to give you certain, clear identifiers so that your discernment flags are more attuned to truth and error.

Why did I do this?

[2Ti 4:2-5 NKJV] 2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. 3 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; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. 5 But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.