

Doctrine Matters

Those who teach false doctrine need to stop because...

1. They are wrong (1:3-4)

Paul tells Timothy to instruct (tell with authority) these men to stop teaching strange doctrines.

- A. *Instruct* does not mean *to teach*. The term here translated “instruct” means *to command*. The same Greek word is used in 1 Thes. 4:2.
- B. Paul told Titus something similar. (Titus 1:10-11 and 13-16, 2:1)
- C. These men were teaching doctrine different from what Paul and the Apostles had taught. (Paul’s gospel is referenced in 1:11)
In Gal. 1:6-9 the hetero gospel is identified as [contrary](#) to Paul’s gospel.
- D. The aimless speculation had as its foundation human imagination, not God’s revelation (the Bible).
 - The references to “myths and endless genealogies” and “mere speculation” suggest that these teachers may have been emphasizing extra-biblical stories that had become part of the traditions of Judaism.
 - The false teachers had begun to teach the product of human imaginations and man-made traditions as the doctrine of God.
 - The error in doctrine may well have involved a false asceticism, for the false teachers “forbid marriage and advocate abstaining from certain foods” (1 Tim. 4:3), teaching that such self-denial gained you divine acceptance or helped you get closer to God, or get more of His grace and approval.

See 1 Tim 4:7; Titus 1:14; Titus 3:9; 2 Tim. 2:23; 2 Tim. 4:1-5

2. They are leading people in the wrong direction (wrong goal) (1:5-6)

- A. The goal toward which Paul and Timothy moved believers was a pure heart, a good conscience and sincere faith.
- B. The false teachers had strayed and gone off course. Their goal was not to grow loving Christians in loving churches. The false teachers had wandered away from (lit. – “missed the aim”) missed the goal, missed the intended result of ministry.

- C. Their teaching was fruitless discussion, as opposed to the true gospel, which produced the fruit of the Spirit in people’s lives. (Gal. 5:22-23)
- D. The loving thing to do is to [confront](#) error.
It is not loving to look the other way, to ignore error, to fail to address error in order to maintain peace, harmony and get along.

3. They are ego and greed driven (1:7)

- A. Those who taught false doctrine desired the [prestige](#) accorded to rabbis in Judaism, only they sought it within the church.
- B. In Matt. 23:5-7 Jesus condemned such ego-driven motives.
- C. They were more interested in getting money from others than in [giving](#) genuine ministry to others. (1 Tim. 6:5; Titus 1:10-11)

4. They are hurting Christians and the Church (1:4-5; 1:19; 6:3-5; 6:20-21)

- A. They were [NOT](#) furthering the spread of the gospel and the advance of God’s kingdom (1:4).
- B. They drifted into endless talk, meaningless, fruitless discussions (1:5), spiritual shipwreck (1:19) envy, strife, abusive language, relational friction, and strayed away from the true Christian faith. (6:21)
- C. Jesus taught that the greatest commandment was to love God and to love people. His kind of love sees the best in its object and seeks the best for its object. When I see the best in you and seek the best for you, then I’m loving you with a pure heart, a clean conscience and sincere faith.
- D. Those who say,
“It doesn’t matter what you believe, as long as you’re sincere.”
fail to recognize that saving faith has object, content and [fruit](#).

Message

Doctrine matters because belief becomes behavior.

So What? Now What? Action Points:

- Make a plan to get to know your Bible better.
- Attend Sunday School, you and your children.
- Attend morning and evening services.
- Join a fold...a circle of Bible Study and prayer.
- Read your Bible regularly on your own.
- Use a Bible Commentary to get insight on the things you read that you don’t understand.