

## Why is it important to learn the doctrine of Christ?

➤ = next PowerPoint slide

### ➤ Intro:

- **doctrine is not popular in religion and churches today** – doctrine shunned to promote church growth
  
- **illus.: Rick Warren, Seven things a church must adopt to grow dramatically** (church growth movement, purpose driven church movement). — postmodern society — rf. many churches today
  - **notes:** take from the Saddleback Community Church "Building a Purpose-Driven Church" seminar held in Southern California - 1998
    - Rick Warren started the church in January, 1980, in his home
    - he built the church into a superchurch, gave seminars, "Building a Purpose-Driven Church"
    - wrote the book "The Purpose Driven Life" published August 2002
    - he also has
      - books: "The Purpose-Driven Church" and "Purpose-Driven Youth Ministry" and others
      - website: "Purpose Driven Church"
      - network: "Purpose Driven Network"
  
- **not review principles 1-5** for this lesson
  
- **#6 Doctrinal instruction should not be given to the church as a whole on Sunday.**
  - **should be given in sub-groups**, apart from the regular church services, as **an option** for interested parties
  - **i.e.,**
    - **not proclaim the "whole counsel of God"** from the pulpit (Acts 20:20-31)
    - **never teach doctrine, or have any evidence of doctrinal positions** communicated on **church sign or literature** available at Sunday service
    - **never say the word "denomination"** or talk about other religions to point out their error
  
- **this lesson:**
  - **Why is it important to learn doctrine?** – unlike what other religions say

➤ **What is doctrine?**

- **doctrine:**

- **teaching:** that which is taught, or the act of teaching (instructing) (Vine's)
- **the Greek is translated "doctrine" and "teaching"**
  - translations vary, the KJ may read "doctrine" and the AS may read "teaching"

- - **Eph. 4:14** there are different religious doctrines (teachings) in the world - one is right, all others are wrong
- **illus.: rf - Matt. 16:12** Jesus warns apostles to beware of the Pharisees doctrine (teaching)
  - **illus.: rf - 1 Tim. 4:1** Paul warns of false doctrines entering in the later times – doctrines of demons
- - **Mk. 1:27** Jesus' doctrine (teaching) was new, different from other religions (Jew, Gentile)
- **Jn. 7:16-17** Jesus' doctrine (teaching) is that of His Father
  - **illus.: the high priest questioned Jesus about His doctrine, Jewish trial before crucifixion (Jn. 18:19)**
  - **illus.: Sermon on the Mount** – you have heard. . . , but I say. . . . (Matt. 5:21f)
- - **Acts 5:28; 17:19** the apostles' doctrine (doctrine of Christ) was different from other religions (Jew, Gentile)
- as Christians, we study and learn the doctrine of Christ, rejecting all other doctrines

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- It's important to learn the doctrine so you do the right things – know you're in right church, doing right things
- **Acts 2:42** church, steadfast in apostle's doctrine (teaching)
    - can't please God if don't know doctrine
    - can't worship or serve God if don't know doctrine
    - can't know if you're in the right church if don't know doctrine
    - **illus.: Bible student question, "how can you tell whether you're in the right church"**
      - learn doctrine: salvation, baptism, worship, church, etc. - examine church
- - **Mk. 7:7-9** if we teach and practice human religious doctrines, our worship is vain
- **Hos. 4:6** "My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge. . . ."
  - if we don't know the doctrine of Christ, we could be worshipping in vain, destroyed
- - **Tit. 2:7-8** we have to know doctrine to be good examples, purity of doctrine – do right things
- we have to know Christ's doctrine so we can obey, do the right things

important to learn doctrine: do right things

- It's important to learn the doctrine **to be saved** – go to heaven
  - **Jn. 12:47-48** Jesus' word will judge us – have to know doctrine (teaching) to be saved
  - **2 Jn. 1:9** must abide in teaching (doctrine) of Christ to be **saved** – go too far, we're lost
  - **Col. 3:17** must do all in the name of the Lord Jesus
  - **illus.:** become **Christian, know** fundamental doctrine of salvation, then **grow** and mature **learning** more and more and **applying** to life
- - **Rom. 6:17** obey doctrine (teaching) from heart, **saved**
  - **illus.:** Rick Warren, church growth, don't teach doctrine in the assembly
    - churches today that don't teach doctrine aren't teaching people how to be saved
    - they're telling people what they want to hear
- - **Col. 2:20-23** if we live according to human religious doctrines, (vs. 22) we live in sin (vs. 23)
  - we have to learn Christ's doctrine to be saved, and grow spiritually

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- It's important to learn the doctrine **to be a leader in the church**
    - **1 Tim. 4:13** in the church we give attention to doctrine (teaching)
      - leaders in the church are giving attention: teaching, example, practice
  - - **1 Tim. 4:6** in the church we point out false doctrine (vs. 1-5), **nourished on words of faith and sound doctrine**
    - leaders on the church are teaching and pointing out false doctrine, so all are **nourished** spiritually
  - - **Tit. 1:9; 2:1** we teach sound doctrine and refute false doctrine in the church
    - **illus.:** contrast denominational wisdom to not teach doctrine, not point out and refute false doctrine (Rick Warren, Seven things a church must adopt to grow dramatically)
      - #7 **A spirit of compromise must prevail** in the church that is to experience dynamic growth.
        - embrace of contemporary culture and style
        - **What works?** things that are the least offensive, and what is positive and uplifting — nothing negative
        - **church leader's attitude must be (Waren):** "Don't try to tell me the Bible requires holiness and a style for worship and ministry that is different from that of the world." This "grace-in-your-face" attitude is so prevalent today because of church elders who are not willing, or not aware of how, to instruct ones to behave in the house of God (1 Tim. 3:15).
        - **i.e.,**
          - never tell anyone they're wrong, always find a way to agree with everyone
          - never reprove and rebuke — only exhort (2 Tim. 4:2)
          - tickle people's ears (2 Tim. 4:3)
          - don't contend earnestly for the faith (Jude 1:3)
  - to be a leader in the "Lord's church", you have to know the doctrine, to lead by doing and teach the things of God
    - **illus.:** friend leading friend, teacher leading student, elder leading flock

important to learn doctrine: do right things, be saved, be leader in church

- It's important to learn the doctrine **to lead people to Christ with the gospel** – help them get to heaven
  - **1 Tim. 1:3-4a, 7, 10** must know doctrine and teach doctrine to save people - lead people to Christ
- - **1 Tim. 4:16** pay close attention to doctrine (teaching) save self and others
  - the best thing we can do to help someone is learn the doctrine of Christ, then we can help others obey Jesus and be saved

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- **How do we learn doctrine?** (not point of this lesson) – quick overview – rf. series on learning
    - **2 Tim. 3:16-17** learn Scriptures – all Scripture profitable for doctrine (teaching)
      - we must study and learn the Bible, to learn the doctrine

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### Summary / Inv.

- you can't do anything without first learning the doctrine of Christ
  - **illus.:** be saved, become a Christian, serve God, teacher others, be a leader in the church
- Are you studying and learning the doctrine of Christ?
  - **illus.:** personal Bible study on what you personally need to learn
  - **illus.:** church Bible study, program of teaching overseen by elders
- Are you memorizing the doctrine of Christ?
  - do you know principles, verses teaching the principles
- If you are young, are you working toward knowing the doctrine well enough to be a church leader, and teach the lost?
  - **illus.:** teach Bible class
  - **illus.:** teach friends and family, lead to Christ with the gospel
- Why is it important to learn the doctrine of Christ?
  - to do the right things
  - to be saved
  - to be a leader in the Lord's church
  - to lead people to Christ with the gospel
- **inv.:** do you need to obey the doctrine of Christ?