

Session 2: Sound Doctrine and False Doctrine

Opening Conversation– Describe how a house is built in Uganda.

- How important is the foundation to the stability of the house?
- What are some necessary actions that keep the house from falling down?
- What is the goal of house building?



Wise and Foolish Builders- Read Matthew 7: 24 -27 - How does Jesus describe two types of builders? What happens if the foundation is not solid? What caused the house to collapse? How does a person put Jesus' words into practice?

Large Group Discussion: What is biblical doctrine?

Doctrine (from Latin: *doctrina*, meaning "teaching", "instruction" or "doctrine") is a formulation or statement of beliefs or a body of teachings or instructions, taught principles or positions, as the essence of teachings in a given branch of knowledge or in a belief system. (*Wikipedia*)

Discussion: What does it mean for doctrine to be sound?

Doctrine is teaching that comes from an authoritative source. For Christians, that source is the Bible. *2 Timothy 3:16* says that the word of God “is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” How is God’s Word profitable for each of these?

1 Timothy 4:16 says, “Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.” We need to be very careful about what we believe and what we teach to others always remembering:

James 3:1 “Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.” How can you be sure that you are handling the Word of God correctly?

Discussion: What is false doctrine?

False Doctrine is any teaching that contradicts the clear teaching of Scripture. According to the Apostle Paul, any gospel other than the one he preached, is false doctrine.

Small Group Study – The Bible strongly warns both teachers and students about false doctrines and false teaching. **Break into four (4) groups and answer the question for your assigned Scripture passage. Note anything that you might learn about doctrine and be ready to report your discussions back to the large group.**

1. *Ephesians 4:14* “As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming”

What warnings do you find here? What words describe false doctrine of those who teach it?

2. *I Timothy 1:8-11* “We know that the law is good if one uses it properly. ⁹ We also know that the law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, ¹⁰for the sexually immoral, for those practicing homosexuality, for slave traders and liars and perjurers—and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine ¹¹ that conforms to the gospel concerning the glory of the blessed God, which he entrusted to me.

What false doctrines might be implied in this passage?

3. *I Timothy 6:3-4* “If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing.”

What do we learn about false doctrine and the person who teaches it?

4. *Galatians 1:7-9* “Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God’s curse! As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God’s curse!”

What is Paul’s attitude toward distorting the gospel with false doctrine? What is God’s curse?

Large Group Discussion - After the four (4) groups report their answers to their study questions, consider the following verses and questions as a large group.

5. *1 Timothy 1:3-5* – “As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain people not to teach false doctrines any longer⁴ or to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. Such things promote controversial speculations rather than advancing God’s work—which is by faith.⁵ The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.”

2 Timothy 2:14-15 – “Keep reminding God’s people of these things. Warn them before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen.¹⁵ Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.”

If you were Timothy, how does Paul want you to respond to false doctrines described in these two passages?

What are some of the prevalent false doctrines in your culture? How should Christians respond to these false doctrines?

What are Paul’s goals and expectations for us?

How do they help us confront false doctrines?

Review the following Scriptures and note anything you learn about false doctrine. Then, write your thoughts on how sound doctrine is different from these descriptions of false doctrine.

2 Timothy 2:16-18 – “But avoid worldly and empty chatter, for it will lead to further ungodliness, and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, men who have gone astray from the truth saying that the resurrection has already taken place, and they upset the faith of some.”

- *False doctrine is*
- *Sound doctrine is*

Titus 1:10-11 – “For there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things they should not teach for the sake of sordid gain.”

- *False doctrine is*
- *Sound doctrine is*

Hebrews 13:9 – “Do not be carried away by varied and strange teachings; for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, through which those who were so occupied were not benefited.”

- *False doctrine is*
- *Sound doctrine is*

2 Peter 3:17 – “You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness.”

- *False doctrine is*
- *Sound doctrine is*

Romans 16:17-18 – “Now I urge you, brethren, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them. For such men are slaves, not of our Lord Christ but of their own appetites; and by their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting.”

- *False doctrine is*
- *Sound doctrine is*

1 Timothy 1:3-4 - “As I urged you upon my departure for Macedonia, remain on at Ephesus so that you may instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrines, nor to pay attention to myths and endless genealogies, which give rise to mere speculation rather than furthering the administration of God which is by faith.”

- *False doctrine is*
- *Sound doctrine is*

2 Peter 2:1 - “But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves.”

- *False doctrine is*
- *Sound doctrine is*

Closing Activity: Summarize the difference between “Sound and False Doctrine”

Personal Prayer of Commitment – Now is the time to recommit your life to the Lord and his work in this world. Commit yourself to be a student of God’s Word and a leader for his glory!