

“Sound Doctrine: Essential for Life”
“Know What You Believe” — Part 1
Jude 17-21

***Do you believe it is your responsibility
to help build a healthy church?***

But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold. They said to you, "In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires." These are the men who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit. But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit. Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.
Jude 17-21

As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain men not to teach false doctrines any longer nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. These promote controversies rather than God's work—which is by faith. The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. Some have wandered away from these and turned to meaningless talk. They want to be teachers of the law, but they do not know what they are talking about or what they so confidently affirm.
1 Timothy 1:3-7

***Sound doctrine leads to purity of heart,
a clear conscience, and a sound faith.***

1. Guarding sound doctrine is a responsibility of both believers and the church.

What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

2 Timothy 1:13-14

Definition: Sound doctrine is a summary of the Bible's teaching that is both faithful to the Bible and useful for life.

2. Doctrine is a road map for the Christian life.

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. I have taken an oath and confirmed it, that I will follow your righteous laws.

Psalm 119:105-106

• Sound doctrine is practical.

You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine.

Titus 2:1

• Sound doctrine shows us who we are, where we are, and where we are going.

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light...
Ephesians 5:8

Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.
Acts 2:41

For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body...
1 Corinthians 12:13

He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.
Ephesians 2:17-22

Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.
Ephesians 4:14-16

But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.
Philippians 3:20-21

• **Sound doctrine is essential for bringing glory to God.**

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.
Romans 12:1-2

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.
1 Peter 2:9-12

3. Doctrine is a road map for the Church.

- **Worship:** John 4:23-24; Colossians 3:16

- **Discipleship:** 2 Timothy 2:2; 2 Peter 3:18
- **Evangelism:** Acts 1:8; 1 Peter 3:15
- **Fellowship:** Acts 2:42-47; John 13:35
- **Compassion:** Romans 12:9-13; James 1:27

Application: Sound doctrine should shape our lives and our church. Do you want joy in God? Devote yourself to studying sound doctrine and living out what you learn. Do this with other members of your church. You will find that in this your joy overflows.

We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We write this to make our joy complete.

1 John 1:3-4