

Sound Doctrine Church

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‘To all the churches- This is what God desires’

Key words: ‘Sound Doctrine’; ‘hygiene’, ‘Pastor’,

Introduction:

The problem is that the denominations do not all agree on every point of doctrine. They are each doing their best to interpret God’s word, sometimes emphasizing different things, sometimes having more substantive disagreements about what God is saying through Paul, Peter, etc. That said, **the Nicene Creed** and **the Apostles Creed** contain the basics of what most Christian churches believe.

Sound doctrine is the true word of God. You can test if people teach sound doctrine if the things that they speak of are good or bad. One example we are taught in schools by men, that God’s creation could be destroyed by giant space rocks at any moment. Through the Holy Spirit we can tell that this is a lie for God is good, and could not create these purposeless bad things. And most of the tribal culture says we (human) came out from the cave,¹ science says from Apes, and Big-bang theory; and the Bible says God’s creation. So what is sound doctrine here!

In the Church of Christ, ‘sound doctrine’ refers to the accurate teaching of God’s Word, emphasizing biblical truth and the importance of living in accordance with it. It is about faithful adherence to the teachings of Jesus and the apostles, as recorded in the New Testament. Sound doctrine is seen as essential for spiritual growth and the well-being of the church, acting as a guide for the Christian life. **What is the sound doctrine of the Church of Christ?** God enjoins sound doctrine (teaching) upon us. What this essentially means is that ‘our teaching is to be faithful to God and His word’. ‘**Sound**’ means ‘healthy’ or ‘uncorrupted’. Sound doctrine, in the context of Church of Christ, refers to ‘**biblical truths and teachings that are accurate, reliable, and essential for spiritual growth and maturity**’. It’s about faithfully interpreting and applying God’s Word in a way that promotes a healthy understanding of faith and practice.

¹Rev Dr Koningthung Ngoru Moyon ‘The Lost Kingdom of Moyon (Bujuur): Iruwng (King) Kuurkam Ngoruw Moyon and the People of Manipur’ (Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh: Shashwat Publication, 2024), 2

What is sound doctrine according to Paul? According to Paul, doctrine is among the things that matter most for the well-being of the Christian and the church. **Sound**, or 'healthy', doctrine *'provides a pattern that, when followed, promotes healthy faith and love'*. **What is sound doctrine?** **Sound doctrine** is *'the truth as written in the word of God'*. *It is the truth on a specific teaching'*. In the context of the book, it is teachings that Paul shared with his church. Paul taught the churches and their leaders on specific subjects, to which he calls these teachings '**sound doctrine**'. Paul was commissioned by God to lead the churches and spread the Gospel. In another book he is noted to say that Christ has given him authority and his teachings come from Christ. So Paul is legitimate and ordained. But these Jews that Paul is speaking against are bringing unsound and false doctrines. These Jews, Cretans, wanted to enslave the people to subjection under the law and Jewish myths, and this is when Paul says to Timothy that he must rebuke them sharply. **What is the main doctrine of the Church of Christ?** What do the churches of Christ believe? The churches of Christ believe the original New Testament teachings of these beliefs are that *'the Bible is true, not altered, and must be followed exactly and that Jesus is the leader or founder of the church'*.

In the book of Titus, Paul says to Titus, rather, he must *'teach what accords with sound doctrine'*. '**Sound doctrine**' refers to *'healthy, solid, reliable teaching'*. He is to do his best to teach without error, distortion, or impurity. His teaching is not to be odd nor eccentric. The word '*accords with*' is a word that means *'to be proper, fitting or appropriate'*.

What does the Bible talk about sound doctrine? **2nd Timothy 4: 3-4** says, *'For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine'*. Notice that the Word of God is good for sound doctrine, **2nd Timothy 3: 16**. Read **2nd Timothy 3: 14-4: 4** 'The Doctrine of Scripture'. In **1st Timothy 1: 10-11**, Paul describes sound doctrine as *'in accordance with the gospel of the glory of the blessed God which I have been entrusted'*. **What is the most fundamental doctrine of Christ of the Church of Christ?** For members of the church, **the greatest commandment** is to *'love God with all their heart'* and the **second** is *'to love others as they love themselves'*. All other commandments are considered appendages to these great commandments (cf. **Matt. 22: 37-40**). **What is a sound mind in Christ?** A sound mind (in **2nd Timothy 1: 7**) refers to *self-discipline and self-control*. Self-discipline and self-control are very similar. '*Sound mind*' God has given through His Spirit into our spirit is **not passive or weak, but strong, focused, resilient, proactive, intentional, and responsible**.

How to know sound doctrine? To know sound doctrine, we must know the Word of God (The Bible), for *'all Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work'* (cf. **2nd Timothy 3: 16-17**). **What is good sound doctrine?** What exactly constitute '*Sound Doctrine*'? **Sound doctrine** in the *Christian faith is accurate Bible teaching*. '**Doctrine**' can be defined as *'the central beliefs that are held by a group of people and 'sound' implies that something is reliable'*.

What doctrine did Paul teach? Deaf hearts notwithstanding, he taught key doctrine: (1) God is creator of all things; (2) He is not worshiped with creations of hands- He created all. He needs nothing tangible, (3) All men are one blood- we are brothers; (4) we should earnestly seek Him; (5) we are God's children; (6) because we are His, we should not reckon that He is made of silver or gold; (7) we must live a lives of repentance; (8) there shall be a judgment; (9) part of that judgment will be the Resurrection which lives in Christ Jesus. Some mocked Paul,

but a few believed his words. He departed from Athens and made his way to Corinth. There, he wrote his first epistle to the Thessalonians. Paul taught resurrection to the Corinthians, then taught resurrection in the Pauline epistles. Paul emphasized *'unity of faith'*: *'Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment'* (cf. **1st Cor. 1: 10**). *'For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace'* (cf. **1st Cor. 14: 33**).

How to be persevere with Sound doctrine? Sound doctrine is essential to the continued faithfulness of pastors. Emphasizing the importance of sound doctrine and knowing how to employ it will help pastors *'continue in what you have learned'* (cf. **2nd Timothy 3: 14**). **Emphasize Sound Doctrine in the Church:** What does it mean for doctrine to be *'sound'*? Paul laces the importance of sound doctrine throughout the Pastoral Epistles. In **1st Timothy 1: 10**, he repudiates, *'Whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine'*. The word *'sound'* translates the Greek word *'hygiaina'*. We derive our English word *'hygiene'* from this term. **Paul understands doctrine as healthy and life-giving for the church.** What is this *'doctrine'* Paul repeatedly references? He sent Timothy to Ephesus to *'charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine'* (cf. **1st Timothy 1: 3**). This stands as the burden and occasion of **1st Timothy**. The *'different doctrine'* of the false teachers contrasts the *'sound doctrine'* Timothy received from Paul. The *'doctrine'* consists of the body of teaching Timothy had received from his mentor- *the core teachings of the Christian faith contained in the Scriptures*. In **1st Timothy 1: 10-11**, Paul describes sound doctrine as *'in accordance with the gospel of the glory of the blessed God which I have been entrusted'*. Paul later charges Timothy *'to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach'* (cf. **1st Tim. 6: 14**). The final impassioned command in **1st Timothy** is *'O Timothy, guard the deposit entrusted to you'* (cf. **1st Tim. 6: 14**). This final command underscores the importance of sound doctrine in the life of the church. The *'sound doctrine'*, *'the commandment'*, and *'the deposit'* all refer to this body of teaching Timothy had received from Paul. In **1st Timothy 1: 13-14** Paul continues this emphasis by writing, *'Follow the pattern of sound words that you have heard from me ... guard the good deposit entrusted to you'*. Here the Apostle calls it a *'pattern of sound words'*. Paul taught and transferred a body of teaching to Timothy to be protected. In this way Timothy and other pastors are doctrine defenders- we keep these healthy works from being corrupted.

Where do we find sound doctrine? The sound doctrine we must guard is found in the Scripture. As you follow Paul's appeals in **2nd Timothy 3: 10-14**, multiple references to God's Word emerge as the source of this sound doctrine. As you examine the progression of this text, you find several synonymous statements referencing the *'doctrine'* discussed above. Here we clearly find this *'sound doctrine'* originates from the Scriptures.

- *'You, however, have followed my teaching'* (cf. **2nd Tim. 3: 10**).
- *'But as for you, continue in what you have learned'* (cf. **2nd Tim. 3: 14**).
- *'From childhood you have been acquired with the sacred writings'* (cf. **2nd Tim. 3: 15**)
- *'All Scripture is breathed out by God'* (cf. **2nd Tim. 3: 16**).
- *'For the time is coming when people will not endure sound doctrine'* (**2nd Tim. 4: 3**).
- *'And will turn away from listening to the truth'* (cf. **2nd Tim. 4: 4**).

All of these refer to this corpus of doctrine, handed down from Paul to Timothy, found within Scripture.

Why is this (sound doctrine) important? Two Greek New Testament words are most often translated ‘doctrine’, ‘teaching’ or ‘instruction’- ‘didache’ and ‘didaskalia’.² Paul’s letters to Timothy provide an inspired paradigm for ministry. We should follow the instructions of the inspired Apostle. Pastors today should emphasize sound doctrine in the church. Confusion abounds about the function, focus, and features of pastoral ministry. Promoting sound doctrine from the Word provides a healthy remedy to all the confusion infecting the church. Paul shows us that pastors should be men committed to sound doctrine- we should be men of the Word (cf. **2nd Tim. 2: 15**). Steven Lawson offers this sad commentary on the reality of many churches: *‘Sad to say, pressure to produce bottom-line results has led many ministries to sacrifice the centrality of biblical preaching on the altar of man-centered pragmatism. A new way of ‘doing’ church is emerging. In this radical paradigm shift, exposition is being replaced with entertainment, preaching with performances, doctrine with drama, once the focal point of the church, is now being overshadowed by a variety of church-growth techniques, everything from trendy worship styles to glitzy presentations and vaudeville-like pageantries. In seeking to capture the upper hand in church growth, a new wave of pastors is reinventing church and repackaging the gospel into a product to be sold to ‘consumers’.* In addition to that, many theological graduates without proper seminary training wants to become a pastor, thinking equal with the well-trained seminarians. Correspondence Bible- study is for self-study, not to become a pastor. If there is no theological graduate in the church, he may, but if there are theological graduates, **correspondence students are not to become a pastor or ordain.** Further, many theologians who are not under Christian Holy Marriage or Matrimonial Acts, that is, elope family wants to become a pastor. They can’t teach and preach sound doctrine because they do not qualified to *the moral characteristic of Christianity.* They are thieves (cf. **Jn. 10: 10**). How many of you (pastors) are in the Holy Matrimony Acts pastors? If you are not – if you are elope, please stop teaching ‘sound doctrine’. **You are a kind of false teacher!** Today, many churches ordain those who elope in the church, in the name of family confirmation. This is bad doctrine, because it is against Christian marriage and the Bible principles. There is only one marriage, that is, Christian marriage (wedding) in the church. **Family confirmation is not the criteria of ordaining or election to the pastorship or ordination.** Marriage is institute by God. A particular form of a wedding ceremony is not given in the Bible. However, *marriage is done in the presence of God.* Let us observe from the Bible: **Adam and Eve (cf. Genesis 2: 24; Matthew 19: 4-6).** *Jesus blesses marriage by His presence and a miracle (cf. John 2: 1-11).* *Marriage should be honour by all (cf. Hebrew 13: 4).* When one observe which one is the Word of God or Holy: The Bible or the Quran? We have three (3) criteria for that: **Historical evidence (Historicity); Moral evidence (Morality), and Archaeological evidence.** Jesus have a full support of historical evidence (genealogy); morally perfect; and well proof of archaeological evidence. While, Mohammad has failed in morality. Therefore, to have sound doctrine, morality is very foundational and important. In Christianity, morality is first important- if failed in morality you are failed in most of the cases.

How many of your (**pastors and reverends**) wives’ are in the Government employee? Are they attending their duty properly? Pastors’ or Reverends’ wives not attending to their duty is wrong. Why do they send substitutes in their job field, when they are physically supposed to do or perform their duty? And the pastor or reverend asking the congregation to attend the church? Could your church allow to send substitute pastor when you have a regular pastor?

² John Macarthur and Richard Mayhue ‘Biblical Doctrine: A Systematic Summary of Bible Truth’ (Hyderabad: Good Shepherd, 2020), 131

This is not sound doctrine. To have sound doctrine in the church, practice sound doctrine within you and your family. Further, there are many Christian employees who desire to be a preacher, why do they serve two masters? Without attending their job, they desire to be a pastor and evangelist. If you are an employee, first do your duty, and then support the church. Don't try to snatch the five-fold gifts of the church (cf. **Eph. 4: 11**). You can be a title-less evangelist in your department or office by being maintaining a good Christian moral person. Otherwise, ***you could be a thief or a wolf in the sheep's clothing coming in the name of Jesus Christ (cf. Matt. 7: 15)***. This are not sound doctrine. In the early church in the New Testament, the followers of Jesus Christ were able to preach and teach. Pastors and ordained minister, are you able to preach and teach? Let us see more, the followers of Jesus Christ were able to write the sound doctrine to their churches and their field areas. You must be, like them, able to write books or articles (Like Paul's letter/epistle) - in your name, the true message in order to solve the church problems. Follow the disciples-way, if you desire to be a church leader- that sound doctrine must be in you. What we preach and teach today, is already written down by the followers of Jesus Christ. If they do not write-down- where would we get this sound doctrine? If you desire to be a church leader- be able to write down what you preach and teach. Preach and teach what God intended to say, not your own ideas. Preach and teach what the author of the book intended to say. Discipleship is a calling! You might not be call, but by force or wrongly elected as a pastor. **You are a false pastor-** elected by hook-or-crook.

Sound doctrine is important because it helps in:

- **Spiritual growth: Sound doctrine provides a foundation for believers to grow in their faith and understand God's character and grace.**
- **Protection from false teachings: It equips believers to discern truth from error and resist misleading doctrines.**
- **Right relationships: Sound doctrine encourages believers to live out right relationships with God, fellow believers and the world.**
- **Godly living: It emphasizes that sound teaching should lead to a matching godly lifestyle.**
- **Focus on Jesus: Sound doctrine always points back to Jesus as the center of Scripture and the author and perfecter of faith.**
- **Discipline and growth: It is essential for a Christian's discipleship and growth because what we believe determines how we live,**

Today, many churches made rules that a bachelor could not become a pastor but a family confirmation person could be. ***How twisted is the doctrine of the church by the false teachers?*** If we read Paul's teaching in **1st Corinthians 7: 32-35 (cf. 1st Cor. 7: 8-9; 2nd Cor. 7: 1-5)**, it says that **a single person will serve the Lord better in the church than married person (cf. 1st Cor. 7: 32)**. **Remaining unmarried is also encouraged in Scripture. However, marriage must not be forbidden (cf. 1st Tim. 4: 1-3).** **Example of Jesus, unmarried (cf. The Gospels).** **Example of Paul, remaining unmarried special gift from God (cf. 1st Cor. 7: 8).** **Jesus teaches His disciples (cf. Matthew 19: 10-12).** **Paul teaches the Church (cf. 1st Cor. 7: 1-2; 7-9); because of this 'present crisis' (cf. 1st Cor. 7: 26).** **Marriage is a type of relationship with God. God and Israel (cf. Jer. 3: 14; Ezek. 16: 1-8).** **Jesus and the Church (cf. Eph. 5: 21-33; 2nd Cor. 22: 2; Rev. 21: 2, 9; 22: 17).** **Marriage of Adam and Eve as a type of Christ and the Church. No**

creature found suitable for a bride for Adam (cf. Gen. 2: 19-20). Sinful man is not suitable as a bride of Jesus. *We must be born again of the Spirit* (cf. John 3: 3-7). *Eve taken not of Adam's side* (cf. Genesis 2: 21-22). *Church comes out of Jesus' pierced side* (cf. John 19: 34). *Eve is of the flesh and bone of Adam* (cf. Gen. 2: 23); *that which is of Spirit is spirit, of flesh is flesh* (cf. John 3: 6; Eph. 5: 30-32). *Eve has the life of Adam, taken out of Adam* (cf. Gen. 2: 23); *our new life is from being put into Christ Jesus* (cf. John 17: 20-23; 2nd Cor. 5: 17). Many false teachers want or desire single person not to be a pastor but desire only family confirmation person to be a pastor? Is your church or association in this condition? Then, false doctrine outside of the Biblical teaching, has already crept into your church and association. Correct this first, and then teach sound doctrine to your congregation. *Wolf in the sheep's clothing* is stealing your soul! True gospel has been hidden from you- before your very eyes and mind. Your conscience is distorted. Hebrew 13: 7 says, '*remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you, consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith*' (cf. Heb. 13: 7, NRSV). Further, in Hebrew 13: 17 says '*Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls and will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with sighing- for that would be harmful to you*' (cf. Heb. 13: 17, NRSV). Those who spoke the word of God does not follow what the word of God says then who are they? You know!

How this (sound doctrine) helps pastors persevere? This clear emphasis gives pastors direction and focus for their ministries. It also gives us clearly about our function in the church. We have a paradigm to follow- like a workout program that keeps us and the church healthy. The good servant of Christ Jesus is, '*being trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine*' (cf. 1st Timothy 4: 6). People in churches often pressure their pastors to preach about what they want to hear (cf. 2nd Timothy 4: 3-4). The winds of new doctrine constantly attempt to blow us off course (cf. Eph. 4: 14). This emphasis reinforces God's will for us and the church and helps us maintain a steady course. Therefore, a pastor or ordained minister must be truly a full trained in seminarian (cf. 1st Tim. 4: 6), faithful to the Word of God, obedience to the Word of God, and not just a distance or correspondence bible student. Wake up church, don't be fool by the false teaching of the wolf who comes in sheep's clothing. Further, remember, Bible is the church's book, and the pulpit is the place where the word of God is preserve and maintain for sound doctrine. When you do not know how to make a sermon, don't used pulpit for your personal gain. If you do not know say I don't know- but stop fooling the innocent congregation from the pulpit- sugar coated preachers please preserve sound doctrine. Satan loves sugar coated preachers and leaders. *Satan uses 'wolves coming in sheep's clothing' to confuse and bring chaos in the church and her believers.*

Therefore, employ sound doctrine? Having traced Paul's emphasis on sound doctrine, we now turn to practically implementing it in the body of Christ.

- **Live out godliness: Not only does Paul highlight the necessity of sound doctrine, he also points out the necessity of living it out. Doctrine is for duty and learning is for living. Paul repeatedly stresses this with his use of the word, 'godliness';** (cf. 1st Timothy 2: 20; 3: 16; 4: 7-8; 5: 4; 6: 3-6, 11). ***Godliness refers to how one demonstrates faithfulness and allegiance to God- the living out of good works.*** In 1st Timothy 5: 4, the widows should, '*show godliness*'. **The unhealthy doctrines of the false teachers lead merely to an 'appearance of godliness'** (cf. 2nd Timothy 3: 5). **Pastors must be especially concerned with their live. We not only teach the flock, but we also set them an example of faithful living** (cf. 1st Timothy 4: 12). **Paul warns Timothy to '*keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching*'** (cf. 1st Timothy 4: 16). **If you are getting Holy Marriage, but elope, how would**

you preach and practice a holy living. You are a liar, you broke God's covenant, and how you became a pastor? And you are not practicing sound doctrine. Then, how your members practice sound doctrine? While rightly championing and emphasizing sound doctrine, we must always strive to live out the commands of Scripture. Spurgeon begins his *classic Lectures* to my students with '*The Minister's Self-watch*'.

- **Defend sound doctrine:** Paul passionately calls Timothy to '*Guard to deposit*' (cf. 1st Timothy 6: 20; 2nd Tim. 1: 14). **We must not only teach sound doctrine, we must also practice, defend and protect it.** Paul requires elders to be men who, '*Must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also rebuke those who contradict it*' (cf. Titus 1: 9). If you are elope (family confirm) pastor or reverend (ordained), how can you defend for Holy Marriage? If you are a correspondence Bible student, then how can you preach and teach the Bible? You know, a correspondence student cannot understand the Bible properly. Today, many churches allowed elope man to be a pastor, but denied young man who are well train in theology with good moral to be a pastor. **Is this Biblical?** *It is very much contrary to Paul's teaching on doctrine. Paul says 'unmarried Pastor' are the best!* (cf. 1st Cor. 7: 32).
- **Train other men to be elders in the church:** After discussing the deposit entrusted to Timothy, Paul writes, '*And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others*' (cf. 2nd Tim. 2: 2). Follow Paul's example and make sure you are handling these doctrines down to other men and equip them to teach it to others. This likely refers to the preparation of other pastors or elders in the church (this is why '*men*' are singled out). Paul did this exact thing for Timothy. What men are you training and preparing for pastoral ministry?
- **Practice expository preaching:** Expository preaching stands as the primary and best method for delivering sound doctrine to the church. The arguments for the superiority and necessity of expository preaching are legion. It stands as the best way to obey Paul's command to '*preach the word*' (cf. 2nd Timothy 4: 2). If you would like help with expository preaching, you should attend one of G3's expository workshops or reach out to this ministry for more resources.

How to emphasize sound doctrine in the Church:

- **Preaching:** Teach the word of God faithfully, ensuring that sermons and messages align with Scripture and the gospel. Your church constitution, by-laws, resolutions must align with the Scripture and the gospel.
- **Teaching:** Provide a thorough and consistent understanding of biblical teaching, helping believers to understand the whole Bible. Do not interpret for your advantage. Tell what is black - black; and what is white-white. Do not be double standard leader and believer.
- **Discernment:** Encourage believers to study the Bible, compare it to other teachings, and develop their own discernment of truth.
- **Living out the faith:** Model a life that reflects the teachings of sound doctrine, demonstrating how to live according to the gospel.

- **Equipping leaders: Provide training and resources for church leaders to preach and teach sound doctrine effectively.**
- **Community: Foster a community where believers can encourage one another to live out the truth and protect one another from false teachings,**

By prioritizing sound doctrine, churches can equip their members to grow in their faith, live out their calling, and make a positive impact in the world.

How this (sound doctrine) helps you persevere: The Pastoral Epistles present a paradigm for ministry in the church. By studying them, one learns what a pastor should do and how he should do it. For those of us serving as pastors or elders, we are reminded of the emphasis we should place on sound doctrine, and the responsibility God gives us to guard it. This kind of clarity about our task encourages us as we carry out the hard work of making disciples and preaching the Word. We may not see the fruit we desire from our labors, but we can know we are following the pattern of sound words Paul wrote to Timothy, Titus, and all the churches. We need to be regularly reminded to *‘preach the word’, in season and out of season’* (cf. **2nd Tim. 4: 2**). Whether it is a fruitful time or an unfruitful time, we hear Paul’s appeal to *‘continue in what you have learned’* (cf. **2nd Timothy 3: 14**). The passion we observe in Paul’s commands and appeals should fill us with zeal for our Lord’s work. Healthy doctrine leads to healthy churches. For better to feed the Lord’s sheep - healthy food rather than the latest pragmatic and philosophical dribble. Thus, *sound doctrine will produce sound doctrine church.*

The Pastoral Epistles help church leaders keep their focus on what should be important in the church. They help pastors understand and define their service to God’s people. These letters help church members understand the role and responsibilities of pastors (this is one reason to preach through these letters for the good of the church). They provide an inspired and timeless paradigm for shepherding God’s flock. Look to them to shape your view of pastoral ministry. Use them to help others see the emphasis on sound doctrine and how to employ it for the health of the body.

Here is more detailed look at the concept:

A. Key aspects of sound doctrine in churches of Christ:

1. **Biblical accuracy:** Sound doctrine is grounded in the Bible, which is considered the ultimate authority on matters of faith and practice.
2. **Jesus as the foundation:** Jesus is the central figure of Christian doctrine, and sound doctrine emphasizes his teachings and the implications of his life, death, and resurrection.
3. **Spiritual growth:** Sound doctrine is not just about intellectual understanding, but about transforming lives and leading people to a closer relationship with God.
4. **Practical application:** Doctrine is meant to be lived out, influencing how Christians think, behave, and interact with the world.
5. **Distinction from false teaching:** Sound doctrine is contrasted with false teachings that deviate from the Bible’s teachings.
6. **Vitality and life:** Sound doctrine is believed to produce a vibrant and thriving Christian community, both individually and corporately.

B. Why is sound doctrine important?

1. **God's roadmap:** It provides a guide for living a Christian life, helping individuals navigate the complexities of the world and their spiritual journey.
2. **Protecting against false teaching:** Sound doctrine helps to discern truth from error and protects believers from misleading beliefs.
3. **Empowering the church:** It equips the church with the truth to serve God, love others, and make disciples.
4. **Spiritual Growth:** It fosters a deeper understanding of God's character and his plan for humanity, leading to greater spiritual maturity.
5. **Living out the Gospel:** Sound doctrine inspires Christians to live out their faith in a way that reflects the love and grace of God.

Another more detail look is here:**A. Key aspects of sound doctrine:**

- **Accurate and reliable teaching:** Sound doctrine is rooted in the Bible and provides an accurate representation of God's character, nature, and plan for humanity.
- **Central to Christian life:** It's a cornerstone of faith, helping believers understand their relationship with God and how to live a life that reflects His teachings.
- **Promotes spiritual growth:** By grounding believers in God's truth, sound doctrine facilitates their maturation in Christ.
- **Foundation for living:** It provides a framework for how believers should conduct their lives, offering guidance on matters of faith, morality, and conduct.
- **Points to Jesus:** Sound doctrine emphasizes the importance of Jesus Christ as the central figure in God's plan.
- **Distinguishes truth from error:** It helps believers discern between genuine teachings and those that contradict or distort biblical truth.

B. Why is sound doctrine important?

- **Protection from error:** It helps believers avoid false teachings and doctrines that can lead them astray.
- **Building strong churches:** Sound doctrine fosters unity and stability within congregations.
- **Promoting spiritual vitality:** It fuels a life that is alive, energized, and motivated by God's truth (cf. Heb. 4: 12).
- **Living a moral life:** It provides a basis for living a life that is pleasing to God and that reflects His values.

C. In the Church of Christ:

- The church of Christ, like other denominations, values sound doctrine and strives to ensure that its teachings are based on Scripture.

- It emphasizes the importance of studying the Bible and being able to defend the truth of God's word.
- Sound doctrine is often seen as a way to maintain the purity of the faith and to ensure that the church is aligned with God's will.

What are the six (6) doctrines of Christ? In his volume on 1-3 John in the New American Commentary, **Daniel Akin**³ organizes the theology of these epistles into six key doctrinal areas: **God, Sin, Christ, Holy Spirit, Salvation, and Eschatology**. Here's what he has to say about how John speaks to these core doctrines.

What are the three (3) doctrines of Christianity? We have to believe in 'the person of Jesus Christ, the second member of the Trinity, the work of the Holy Spirit, and then *the gospel of grace- salvation by faith*'. The three major Christian creeds, *the Apostles' Creed*⁴, *the Nicene Creed and the Athanasian Creed*, together constitute a fairly comprehensive summary.

What are the different types of doctrine? There are at least 52 (Fifty-two) Major doctrines found in the Bible. Among the many doctrines of Scripture there are ten primary doctrines.

Conclusion:

Sound doctrine produces sound churches: churches are in dire need of sound doctrine and demanding Sound doctrine (**cf. 1st Timothy 4: 1-4**). A local church is going to be about as strong and sound as the preaching it receives and is willing to endure and support. Paul's solemn charge to Timothy had a sense of urgency about it. Preach the word now, while brethren will endure it, or face a time when they will not. We need churches who not only endure sound doctrine but demand it of those they support in local work, in gospel meetings, assembly, council, and throughout the world. Unless we have this we will continue seeing churches slide toward religious error and philosophical foolishness and away from the sound doctrine based on 'what saith the Scriptures'. Sound doctrine or theology, gives us steady assurance of continuity in a world filled with change. It makes us feel a whole lot better.

Note: Christianity is a relationship, not religion. Therefore, to practice sound doctrine, we must keep sound doctrine within us first. I am writing this to teach who desire to learn sound doctrine but not to hurt you and others. True gospel is bitter but will lead you to everlasting life. Amen. Thus says the Lord, '*whoever believes this, will have eternal life; but whoever denies will perish*' (**cf. Jn. 3: 16**). The Church does not determine what the Bible teaches. It is the Bible that determines what the Church must do and teach. The Church pulpit is the place where truth is serve to maintain the Biblical standards and principles. It is not the place where to serve your attitudes and whims- where Biblical sermons are not twisted for personal appreciation and showcase your ability and unbiblical messages. *The church with Sound System without a Sound Doctrine is an Event Center.* The Church pulpit is the place where sound doctrine flows for maturity and growth into the Lord, Jesus Christ, always. Remember, the Church does not determine what the Bible teaches. It is the Bible that determines what the Church must teach. Church leaders, pastors and ordained ministers, it is so important for us to know that the God we serve is a God of plan, purpose, design and objective. We must know God's plan, God's

³Daniel L. Akin 'The New American Commentary: An Exegetical and Theological Exposition of Holy Scripture 1, 2, 3 John' (Holman Reference Publication, 2001)

⁴ustin S. Holcomb 'Know the Creeds and Councils' Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 2014), 27

purpose, and God's purpose of design, and God's objective. When we only know these things sound doctrine can be preach and teach in order to have a sound doctrine church.

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