

Why we Need Sound Doctrine

Introduction: Greetings OIC... *Welcome visitors and those watching online.* In the garden of Eden, God told Adam not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, or he would **die**. Adam told Eve. In *Genesis 3*, satan possessed a serpent, *deceived Eve*, and she *ate the fruit*. She gave some to Adam, who was with her and he **ate**. Eve *rejected sound doctrine* God gave. Adam *rejected sound doctrine* and plunged the **world** into *sin and death*. There are *severe consequences* for ignoring or rejecting sound doctrine. This can be *personally*, within a *family*, a *country*, or *church*. We must *listen* to and *embrace sound doctrine*. This is **critical** for churches, leaders, families, work, relationships, and more. We find *sound doctrine* in the *Bible*, because it is **truth**. It is the **only book** God gave and is **overflowing** with sound doctrine.

A. The Importance of Sound Doctrine

God challenges **leaders** to **teach sound doctrine**.

Read 1 Timothy 4:6 - In pointing out these things to the brothers *and sisters*, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, *constantly* nourished on the words of the faith and of the good doctrine which you have been following.

Read Titus 1:9 - (referring to an overseer or bishop) holding firmly the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict it.

Read Titus 2:1 - But *as for* you, proclaim the things which are fitting for sound doctrine.

Church leaders are to teach God's truth, or *sound doctrine*. Those who **hear** sound doctrine are to *embrace* it, *believe* it and *live it out*. But *questions* arise...

B. What is Sound Doctrine?

"Sound" means *healthy, pure, or free from error*. It refers to *what brings good health*.

Example: I like some *unhealthy* food, but *I try to eat healthy*. Sometimes it's *not the best tasting*, but it's **healthiest**. **Pictures:** *Healthy Food*. Fruits, vegetables, grains, fish, meat, and more were *given by God for us to eat*. A proper combination of these with exercise, helps our bodies to *survive* and *thrive*. **Pictures:** *Junk Food*. If all we eat is *junk food, processed foods, sugar drinks* and more, then our bodies will **suffer**. We **will** have *health problems* if we **only eat junk**. **Picture:** *Bible and Folded Hands*. *Sound or healthy doctrine*, brings **spiritual health**. We may *not always like the way it tastes*, but it is best for us. Sound, healthy doctrine or truth brings *maturity*. If you want to grow in your relationship with Christ; if you want to mature as a

Christian; if you want strength to endure difficulties in life and more, then you *need sound doctrine*.

"*Doctrine*" means *instruction* or *teaching*. It refers to *content* of what is taught, or the *information* shared. **Picture: Math.** In math, you *learn numbers, formulas, graphs, addition, subtraction, fractions, coefficients, and more*. **Picture: Business.** In business, you learn about *different models, structures, budgets, and more*. **Picture: English.** In English, you learn about *nouns, verbs, sentence structure and more*. Each topic has **content** that someone needs to learn. **Picture: Bible Study.** There's a lot of **sound doctrine in the Bible!** *Sound doctrine* is *healthy teaching* that will *help you* to be *spiritually healthy*.

Understanding it requires time, dedication, effort, and submission to what you **learn**. *Sound doctrine* gives us a foundation for the Christian life. It gives us an *objective standard* to live by. *Sound doctrine* helps us *live above* our subjective emotions, leading to **another question**.

C. Sound Doctrine in Daily Life

Examples: Again, *sound doctrine* to the Christian is what eating is to our bodies. *Sound doctrine* to the Christian is what water is to a fish. *Sound doctrine* should be *something we desire* and the *environment we live in*.

1. Our Beliefs

Without sound doctrine, we will *not know what we believe*, or we *will believe what is false*. *Sound doctrine* should be the basis of our beliefs.

Read Ephesians 4:12-16 - (Church leaders are) for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the building up of the body of Christ; **13**until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. **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 people, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; **15**but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *that is*, Christ, **16**from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

Questions: Do you want *stability* in your life? Do you want to *grow spiritually*? Do you want *unity* in OIC? Do you want to *work together* for God's *glory*, where each uses *his or her gifts* to *share the gospel* and *make disciples*? Do you want *your love for God* and *others to grow*? If you answered **yes** - *Then you need sound doctrine!*

Regarding **salvation**, if you *believe false doctrine* about Jesus, God and salvation, you probably are **not** a Christian! If you believe Jesus is a *created being* or an *angel*, you have a *false Jesus* and a *false salvation*. If you believe you can *gain forgiveness* by the actions of your life and

things **YOU** do, you have a *false salvation*. Do you believe *sound doctrine* regarding salvation? What about some *practical areas* of life...

Examples: **1.** If we believe *God is good, in control of all things in life and history*, and that He is a *loving Father*, then we will look at difficulty *very differently* than *those who do not believe these truths*. It is when we are *crushed, hurt* or when God says, "*No,*" we *find out what we really believe about God*. **2.** If someone from a *cult or false religion* asks you about your beliefs about Jesus, the Bible, God, salvation and more, *can you answer them?* **3.** When we understand what *God says about Himself, history, the future, Israel, Jesus, the Holy Spirit and more*, we *develop a Biblical worldview*. Rather than basing our views of life on *what the world says*, we **base it on truth**. **4.** We are *secure in salvation*. *We cannot lose what we did not gain*.

Read Romans 8:38-39 - For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, **39**nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This *frees us* from **fear** and **bondage** to *serve, worship and rejoice in Him*. *We don't have to try harder to measure up to God's standards*. *Jesus did it for us!* We understand **grace!** These are a **few examples** of how **sound doctrine impacts** our *beliefs and lives*.

2. In Decisions

Sound doctrine helps us *make wise decisions*. The Bible *emphasizes* wisdom, discernment and making wise decisions. We can still make bad decisions because of **sin in us**, but *we are free from sins domination*.

Read Romans 6:4-7 - Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too may walk in newness of life. **5**For if we have become united with *Him* in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be *in the likeness* of His resurrection, **6**knowing this, that our old self was crucified with *Him*, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; **7**for the one who has died is freed from sin.

Applications: You are *no longer under the chains of sin*. *In Christ* and by His power, you have the freedom to say "**No**" to *sin*, and that *changes the way you view decisions*. You can now, by God's power, say "**No**" to the **addiction** that destroyed you. You can say "**No**" to **lust**, or that **second look** at the *pretty girl or handsome man*, who is not your spouse. You can say "**No**" to **gambling**, where you *waste God's money*. You can say "**No**" to that **urge to steal**. You can say "**No**" to *pornography and more*.

Sound doctrine also *impacts everyday decisions*. **Questions:** What do we do when we don't want to go to work? God says if you don't work, you don't eat - *2 Thessalonians 3:10*. We are to do everything for His glory or Name - *Colossians 3:17*. What do you do when you are tempted to cheat off someone's paper or computer screen? God says *not to steal* - *Exodus*

20:15. Do you have to make a financial decision? There are *principles in Scripture*. *Sound doctrine* helps us in our **decisions**...

3. In Relationships

Sadly, *most Christians* do not *connect* sound doctrine with relationships, but they **are connected**. In the *structure of the family*, God is **very clear**.

Read Ephesians 5:22-25 - Wives, *subject yourselves* to your own husbands, as to the Lord. **23**For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself *being* the Savior of the body. **24**But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives *ought to be* to their husbands in everything. **25**Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her...

Paul *explains* and *quotes Genesis 2:24*, refers to Christ, the church and more. **Application:** Paul gives an example of **how sound doctrine** and the *gospel* connects to *family relationships*. Wives *willingly chooses to submit to her husband* as the leader of the home, as *Jesus submitted to the Father*, and as the *Church submits to Jesus*. Husbands are to *love their wives as Jesus loved the Church* and *gave His life* for her. *This is doctrine and the gospel lived out*. That's one example...

Examples: If we believe *salvation is by grace through faith*, we know *God took the initiative*. We receive His forgiveness by His *grace through faith*. We learn about His mercy, His love, His patience and more when we *understand salvation Biblically*. Will we extend or give that *grace and mercy* to those who wrong us? Will we *forgive our spouse* for saying or doing something *hurtful*? Will we show *mercy* to a *friend who was cruel*? Will we *pray* for those who persecute us? These are relational questions we all face! The **doctrine** we truly believe impacts our relationships and how we treat others.

We lived in sin and rebellion against God. He took the initiative through the *gospel to confront us*, as He confronted Adam and Eve in the Garden. **Read Galatians 6:1** - Brothers and sisters, even if a person is caught in any wrongdoing, you who are spiritual (*mature*) are to restore such a person in a spirit of gentleness; *each one* looking to yourself, so that you are not tempted as well.

Sin must be confronted. *We keep people accountable and confront them as needed.* *Sound doctrine* says **this**. An **abuser** must be *confronted*. If there is a **blind spot** or **sin in my life**, *talk with me*. We don't go looking for someone to confront. **No**. Those who are *mature take the log out of their own eye* before taking the *speck out of another's eye*. The goal is to bring them back into a right relationship with *God and others*. Relationships in a **church** need to *live out sound doctrine, based in love*. How are the *relationships in the church*? Do they need to be *strengthened*? What are they *based upon*? Is there *genuine fellowship or community*? *Sound doctrine* unites, encourages, confronts, equips, shares, helps, and is the expression to the *outside world* that we as Christians, **are different!**

Conclusion: Some say *doctrine divides*. You are **correct**. Sound doctrine *divides* those who **want truth** from those who **don't**. Also, sound doctrine is **never separated** from our *conduct, thinking, words and actions*. It is what the *Holy Spirit uses to transform us* to be more like **Jesus**. The *study of sound doctrine*, is the *study of truth*. It is **not** just an academic exercise. The study of **truth** is the *life changing means we know God more* and **reflect Him** and His light in a dark and dying world. **Questions:** Do you want to *know God*? Do you want *life change*? Do you want *stronger beliefs, better relationships* and the *opportunity to make better decisions*? **Start with sound doctrine...** and *connect it to your life*. *Sound doctrine* is being and must be proclaimed at **OIC**. If you are looking for *a church*, join **OIC**. If you need to be baptized, tell one of the leaders. If you are *uncertain of your salvation*, **turn away** from your **sin**, and **trust in Jesus alone**. *Don't wait!*