

Marks of a Disciple / Lesson 5: “Theologically Sound”

HOLD FAST TO THE TRUTH

The Bible encourages us to pursue sound doctrine. (Titus 1:5-9)

Take a closer look at Titus 1:9. What does it mean to hold to the faithful message? According to Paul, what does holding on to the truth allow us to do?

Why should we make being theologically sound a priority in our own lives?

Our doctrine shapes and informs the way we live. (Titus 2:1-15)

What are some ways faulty theology might impact the way you live?

How have your beliefs about God shaped a decision that you made?

SOUND DOCTRINE IS OUR LIFE-LONG PURSUIT

Pursuing True Doctrine Unites Us To Jesus And To Each Other. (John 17:17-23)

How might we respond to someone who tells us that theology is a matter of secondary importance?

Can you think of an example of strife or division among people that was caused by doctrinal differences? What are some practical ways that doctrine and theology unify a church?

Pursuing True Doctrine Requires Study And Discernment.

- 1. Sound Doctrine is rarely based on an isolated phrase or verse.**
- 2. Sound Doctrine is usually confirmed in church history.**
- 3. Sound Doctrine is not based on what you hope the Bible says.**

4. **Sound Doctrine never promises you what God has not promised.**
5. **Sound Doctrine is true at any time in history and in any place on the planet.**

Closing

1. **First-level Doctrines: Doctrines that if you don't believe, you're not a true Christian.**
2. **Second-level Doctrines: Doctrines that are important enough that it's best to fellowship in different churches for the sake of unity.**
3. **Third-level Doctrines: Doctrines that might cause disagreement even in the same church.**

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION

What are some ways you've seen men discount or downplay theological soundness as a mark of a disciple?

Why are some of the Christian "catchphrases" such as "We just want to love God, and love people" inadequate?

Beyond reading the Bible, what are some tips for men who want to be theologically sound?

Personal Evaluation

What comes to mind when you think about God is the most important thing about you. So what comes to your mind when you think about God?

"Theology" is literally the study of God. How are you seeking to know God by knowing theology?

On the other hand, knowing theology should never cause us to be unloving. Being unloving reflects a lack of knowledge about God. Has your theological knowledge ever led you to become prideful?

If you feel that this is an area you can grow, who might be able to disciple or mentor you? When will you reach out to them?