



Bible-based. Christ-centered. Family-focused. Mission-minded.

Welcome! We're glad you are here!

Sunday -August 20, 2023

The Difference Between Doctrine and Opinion

by Troy Spradlin

When it comes to religious matters, there are many people with a variety of extreme opinions. Unfortunately, those opinions sometimes result in confusion concerning what the Bible actually says. There are also times when an opinion can turn into "tests of fellowship," meaning that unless you agree with some given viewpoint, you can't be a part of that particular group that holds that opinion. Thus, the opinion practically evolves into a matter of doctrine. So, is there a difference between doctrine and opinion? Let's explore this topic through the lens of Scripture.

First, let's understand what doctrine is. In John 7:16, we read, "*Jesus answered them and said, 'My **doctrine** is not Mine, but His who sent Me.'*" If you look up this verse in some other Bible versions, you will find it rendered as "*My **teaching** is not mine, but his who sent me.*" (ASV, ESV, NASB) The word doctrine literally means "instruction, teaching; that which is taught." Teaching is what guided the church in its infancy.

When the church began, the Apostles led the disciples by their teaching, "*And they continued steadfastly in **the apostles' doctrine** and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.*" (Acts 2:42). Their teaching was authoritative because it was

guided by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:20-21). In 2 Thessalonians 2:15, and 3:4, Paul affirms that the Apostle's teaching can be in the form of commands and traditions that must be adhered to because they have divine authority to mandate such. Therefore, *doctrine* pertains to things that Jesus and the Apostle taught, many of which are obligations and patterns for Christians to keep and follow (cf. Matthew 28:18-20; 1 Corinthians 4:17).

Doctrine consists of the things that we must do as Christians and do not have permission to change. Doctrine can also be equated to "God's will" because of its divine origin (Matthew 7:21-23). In Paul's letter to Titus, he wrote, "*holding fast **the faithful word as he has been taught**, that he may be able, by **sound doctrine**, both to exhort and convict those who contradict*" (Titus 1:9). "Sound doctrine" means that the teaching is good, solid, acceptable, grounded in Scripture, valid, and not defective. It also implies that there is doctrine that exists which is not sound. Paul is exhorting Titus to maintain and adhere to the pattern of beliefs, the principles and tenets of the faith, and the instructions and commands that were laid down by the inspired men of God who guided the church in fulfilling God's will.

Opinion enters the picture when we have to make decisions about how to carry out the commands and traditions given to the church. While we have direct commands and examples to follow - that we can be certain are according to God's will - how we fulfill those commands sometimes requires a judgment call on our part. Here is one example, we know that we are to partake of the Lord's Supper every first day of the week, "*In remembrance of Him*" (Acts 2:42, 20:7; 1 Cor 11:17-29). However, there are no specific instructions for exactly how we are to distribute and partake of the elements pertaining to the memorial feast. Do we all gather around a table, or have the elements brought to us? Do we use one cup or multiple cups? Are we to stand, sit, or kneel? Must it happen before the sermon or after? So, you see? We have to make a few judgment calls concerning how we will fulfill the command of participating in the Lord's Supper during worship. As a result, some congregations will decide to do it one way while others will choose another way. In every case, it is a matter of opinion of how to fulfill the command properly.

It is these types of judgment calls, which are simply one's opinion about how to effectuate a divine command, that can turn into a matter of contention, causing division or "tests of fellowship." Concerning these matters, Thomas Campbell said, "In matters of faith, unity; in matters of opinion, liberty; in all things, love." He is right! As long as a church isn't changing the command by adding to or taking away from it (like using musical instruments when the example is singing), then those judgment calls should never become a source of division among the body of Christ.



6745 Margaret Street / margarst@bellsouth.net / 850.623.8191
www.margaretstreetchurchofchrist.org

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY



L2L Upcoming Dates

- August 27 : L2L Kickoff
- Right after PM Services
- September 6:
- Commitment Forms Due
 - Bible Bowl begins
- September 10 : L2L Workshop
- L2L Workshop

YG BIRTHDAY NIGHT

Wed. September 13
5 pm in the FH



BIG EVENT REMINDERS



FUEL Retreat @ GCBC
November 10 – 12
6th – 12th grade
Sign-up by October 8th



Exposure Youth Camp
December 27 – 30
All ages are welcome
Sign-up by October 8th

UNSTOPPABLE

GULF COAST
AREAWIDE 2023-2024
SCHEDULE

AUG 13 / AZALEA CITY COC
SEPT 17 / GULF SHORES COC
OCT 15 / SCENIC HILLS COC
NOV 10-12 / FUEL RETREAT
JAN 7 / SPANISH FORT COC
FEB 18 / EASTERN SHORE COC
MAR 10 / UNIVERSITY COC
APR 21 / MARGARET ST. COC

PARENTING SEMINAR

DECEMBER 1-3

JANUARY 12 - 14

MARGARET STREET MARRIAGE RETREAT

Back To School Reminder

by Adam Faughn

One of the hard things about the summer is that it just isn't very long anymore. While the summer may have gone by quickly, though, much good has been accomplished. Now, it's time to see that "good" put into action! As our young people head back to school, I hope they know that they are often in our prayers. While we may not fully understand every temptation and stress they each face, we can at least acknowledge that things aren't always easy for a Christian. Young people, please remember these three things as you go back to the halls of education:

1. **Whose you are.** "You were bought with a price" (1 Corinthians 6:20). That "price" was the precious blood of Jesus that saved you from your sin. As Paul wrote, "you are not your own" (v.19). Remember that you belong to the Lord.

2. **Why You are Whose You Are.** You have shown this summer that you love the Lord, but you love Him because He first loved you (1 John 4:19). Don't forget the love of God and what that love did for you, even when you are facing great stress and temptation.

3. **Christ Understands.** The Hebrews writer teaches us that Jesus can "sympathize with our weaknesses" because He was tempted, too (Hebrews 4:15). Take your troubles to Him and let Him walk with you.

We love you and pray that you will let your light shine in your school in 2023-2024.

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER LIST

Recent/Urgent Requests

- Brooklyn Bostwick* - prayers, mealtrain
- Gale Broadfoot - knee surgery, recovery
- Sherryn Canniff* - health, pain
- Harrison Freeman* - burn damage, recovery
- Cory Gilreath - hospital, tests (Longmire*)
- Gary Good* - tests (Frahm*)
- Sarah Goldman-car wreck, surgery (Frahm*)
- Terry Jennings* - medical complication
- Donald McGriff* - health, prayers
- Mary McGriff* - heart ablation, recovery

Grieving a Loss

- Brooklyn Bostwick* - loss of mom, Kandi
- Arva Fisher/family* - loss of brother, George
- John Hart Ellis* - loss of wife
- Hatcher family* - loss of mom, Rachel Sullins
- Linda Loftin* and family - loss of Jim*
- Elsa Nunes* - loss of brother, Guillermo Deir
- Scott Shanahan - loss of father, Kevin
- Vonada family - loss of Troy*

2023 Recently Baptized / Restored / Identified

- Jada Crider* - Baptized
- Brittany Parker* - Baptized
- Dawson Hitchcock* - Baptized
- Matthew & Ashley Gingerich* - Baptized
- Olivia Gingerich* - Baptized
- Lanie Scott* - Baptized
- Ashley Scott* - Baptized
- Sharon Parker* - Baptized
- Mike and Addie Frahm* - Identified
- Terry & Judy Jennings* - Identified
- Josh & Stephanie Jennings* - Identified
- Jeremy & Amber Dunaway* - Identified
- Alan & Heather Overton family* - Identified
- Philip and Lanya Lester family* - Identified

Students in College

- Seth Crider
- Stephen English
- Caitlyn Frizzell
- Jackson Lash
- Caleb Owens
- Nick Webb
- Lily Weathersbee
- Reed Wilson
- Lexi Wildes

Mission Works

- Shanahans* - Mission Italy
- Eliezer Perez - San Lorenzo, Paraguay
- Trevor Smoot - Domestic Missions
- Sebastain Garcia - Brazil
- SRC Correctional Institute

Other Requests / Health Issues

- Patricia Ann* - prayers, health (MZL)
- Mike Brown - stroke, recovery (frmer mem)
- Gerry Baldwin - health (J.Pace sister)
- Sharon Ates - upcoming surg. (Gallagher*)
- Bob Black - health (Lipford*)
- John Broadfoot - health
- Robbie Bullard-aneurysm/defect valve (Lee*)
- Winston Burnham* - health
- Janice Carter* - tests, waiting on results
- Robert Collins - foot problem (J.Pace cousin)
- Sherry Davis* - health
- Keturah Dickey - MS (K. Longmire*)
- Laura Elliot - (S. Lee* mom)
- Myrna Fuller* - pulmonary fibrosis
- Steve Fulton - pain, health difficulties
- Dixie Gorham - recovery - heart failure
- Donald Hamilton-surgery, recover (McGriff)
- Jackie Hamilton - Covid (McGriff*)
- Daphne Hamilton - surgeries, health
- Edwina Harris - health (J.Pace sister)
- Steve Hartzog - health issues(Alonna's friend)
- Barbara Helms* - health
- Chris Hollis - (McGriff)
- Kenna Jackson - (Kristina P's* friend)
- Marcia Jones -loss of cousin (Kenya's* friend)
- Yvonne Loomis - prayers, health (Nunes*)
- Martin family* - prayers
- Vicente Martinez - kidney transplant
- Mary McGriff* - health, asthma
- Ron Miller- esophagus infection (Ina Ruth*)
- Jeffery Norman - transplant list (Nunes*)
- Elsa Nunes* - health, fell in the past. recovery
- Patsy Prince - (Burnham*)
- Otis & Eleanor Pollit - (Gallagher*)
- Kara Ritchie - blood disorder (M.Scott*)
- Glenn Rose - heart problems (Garcia*)
- Gloria Vonada* - health
- Jan Whitney* - heart procedure, recovery

Military

- Nick Bartell - Ft. Walton Beach
- John Bartell - Washington, DC
- Spencer England - Japan
- Spencer Gable - New London, Groton, CT
- Amya Huey* - Italy
- Ni Mack - Kansas
- Cole Weathersbee - Great Lakes, Illinois

Cancer

- Ron Bartanen* - cancer
- Darlene Baxley* - hospice, prayers
- Darrell Bozeman*
- Misty Bray* - (Bird*)
- Jimmy Calhoun - (Mike Scott*)
- Mark Carlson - (C.Davis*)
- Tish Clark - (Hatcher*)
- Jack Davis*
- Pat Deforest*
- Eddie English - (R.English*)
- Timothy Ezzell - former member
- Chris Hendrix - (Baxley*)
- Ricky Jenning - (McGriff*)
- Lisa (Dixon) Johnson - (McGriff*)
- Tierney Lancaster - rare blood (Baxley*)
- Marie and Jeff Lorentz - (J. Bartell*)
- Peter Machon - (Torpey*)
- Darrel Mason - (D.Hill*)
- Connie Moore - (Fulton*)
- Karen Parker - (Spradlin* friend)
- Karen Pollit - (Gallagher*)
- Al Sherdan - bladder/prostatic cancer (Coen)
- Brooks Ann Singley* - good news!
- Mary Lee Smith - (McGriff*)
- Marlene Smith - (Fulton*)
- Donnie Turner- (Helms*)
- Reynold Voeltz - (Boughton's friend)
- David Walther - brain (English*)
- Kellie (Wiggins) Ward - (former mem.)
- Mel Wilcox - (Gallagher*)
- Daisy Jean Williams - (J.Pace)

Assisted Living / Shut-Ins / Rehab

- Sherryn Canniff - homebound
- Josie Coons - hospice (McReynolds*)
- Sherry Davis* - The Blake (Davis/Napier*)
- Donna Dudley-Life Care Center (S. Davis*)
- Annie Favorite - Haven (Mary Lou's mom)
- Bobbie Garcia* - Fort Walton Beach
- Betty Lee - homebound (D. Lee's mom*)
- Linda Mann* - Shut In
- Larry McDaniel*-Santa Rosa Rehab
- Ina Ruth Miller*
- Ruth Phillips*- Shut In
- Jim Pitts - Daphne, AL
- Lillian Raines* - Victorian Manor

Expectant Mothers

- April Estain - January 2024

Library Service Project

Looking for a way to serve?

Card Ministry available in the Library!

See Lisa for more details!

Spiritual Gardening Ladies Day

September 16th

2-4 PM

Located in the Fellowship Hall

Transportation is available

SERVING WITH HONOR

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20

MORNING

Opening Prayer Nick Bartell
 Song Director Mason Chandler
 Sermon Casey Bearden
 "Empty to Be Filled"
 Scripture Reading Chris Davis
 Luke 9:57-62
 Closing Prayer Joe Wilson

Serving Communion (Left - Right):

Eddie Longmire Dane Harrington
 Pat Mense Jake Newcomb
 Dawson Hitchcock (Balcony)
 Comments Richard McCool

EVENING

Opening Prayer Dane Harrington
 Singing Blake Hatcher
 Scripture Judsen Jennings
 Galatians 5:13-14
 Comments Richard McCool

Worship Service and Preparation:

Communion Prep Jeff Scott family
 PowerPoint Matt McReynolds
 Greeters Mason Chandler
 Secure Building Casey Bearden

WEDNESDAY EVENING

Summer Series Jack Webb
 Joseph's Life Events
 Song Director Brody Crider
 Opening Prayer Dane Harrington

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE REPORT:

Sunday Bible Class 179
 AM Worship 219
 PM Worship 103
 Wed. Night Bible Class 180
 Contribution \$9,196.25

TIMES OF SERVICES:

Sunday AM Bible Class 9:00 am
 Sunday AM Worship 10:00 am
 Sunday PM Classes, Worship . 6:00 pm
 Wednesday PM Bible Class 6:30 pm

Visitors:

Thank you for coming!

You are our honored guest!

For more information about the church, spiritual topics, our classes, and activities, there is a tract rack at the entrance of the auditorium for your convenience.

Or, ask any member for assistance.

Please take a moment to fill out a visitors card, or sign our guest book so that we might have a record of your attendance. Thank you!

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADMINISTRATION

- Deadline for all bulletin items is Thursday, by noon.
- If interested in utilizing the library, please reserve with Blisse or Lisa for Bible studies, meetings, etc.
- Apologetics Press Study Bibles available for purchase - see Blisse.

BENEVOLENCE

EDUCATION

- Adult and Children Bible classes available on Sundays @ 9 AM and Wednesdays @ 6:30 PM.
- Willing to teach? See Chris Davis!

<WiFi Password posted in Foyer>



Scan this QR Code to open webpage for online giving

STAFF

Troy Spradlin Preacher / Minister
 cell: 850-910-2868
 spradlin.troy@gmail.com
Casey Bearden Family Minister
 cell: 706-889-3222
 caseybearden@live.com
Blisse Hatcher Church Secretary
 cell: 850-625-8911
 margarstcoc@gmail.com
Scott Shanahan Missionary
 cell: 865-443-9856
 scottshanahan@hotmail.com
Trevor Smoot Domestic Missionary
 cell: 937-417-4297
 smooterii@outlook.com

ELDERS

Rick Bird 994-3148
 bird1plus3@icloud.com
Phillip Webb 232-7431
 pw_webb@hotmail.com
Joe Wilson 206-8350
 jaw@wilsonharrell.com

CONTACT FOR AUGUST:

Primary..... Phillip Webb
 Secondary Rick Bird

DEACONS* & MINISTRIES

Administration Troy Spradlin
 Benevolence..... Dennis Maduell
 Building & Grounds Paul Lipford*
 Education Chris Davis*
 Evangelism Troy Spradlin
 Finance
 Fellowship Jeff Scott*
 Involvement Joe Taylor*
 Lads to Leaders David English
 OWLS Stephen Fulton
 Missions Mike Scott*
 Visitation Bob Locklin
 Mason Chandler
 Kingdom Kids Dane Harrington*
 Worship Blake Hatcher*
 Youth & Family Casey Bearden