

## **DOCTRINE**

Although it may not be true in all cases, many people tend to use the word "Doctrine" in one way, which is "Doctrine equals Truth". We have not only heard the word doctrine used, but many of us have used it to define our confidence in the truth of our faith. But what is doctrine, and does it always equal Truth? Let's start out by looking at the word "Doctrine" so we can get a better understanding of the true meaning.

What is Doctrine?

- Is a set of beliefs or principles held and taught by a Church, political party, or other group. Another words for it is teaching, principle, instruction and so on. Proverbs 4:4.
- Is something that is taught. A body or system of teaching relating to a particular subject such as the "doctrine of a Church".

### **Miss-using the word "Doctrine"**

There are some ministers miss-using the word "Doctrine" today because they are involved with those that plan and work to destroy the truth or sound doctrine. Please understand that I do not accuse all teachers of being part of this evil act and I realize that there are those that have not looked into the word of God themselves but teach according to the Doctrines of their college and therefore can only be accused of bad teaching practices. Also many make the mistake of teaching long before they are ready to do so and some should not because Jesus has not called them to teach. God knows the hearts of all so I'm not going to point to any minister or Church as being deceptive in a malicious way, but we do need to be aware of the truth and what is true doctrine so we will not become deceived when others try to change sound doctrine for their own purpose or because they considered themselves as teaching elders right after they get their degree. They need to understand what the definition of a "Degree" is because it means one of a series of steps in a process, course, or progression. In most cases these men that are to be given authority are still very young and without life's experience that is essential before a man can become a teacher of the word of God.

### **The Kinds of Doctrine**

1. Sound Doctrine – 1Timoth 1:10.
2. Doctrines of Men – Colossians 2:22.
3. Doctrines of the Devils – 1Timothy 4:1.
4. Diverse & Strange Doctrines – Hebrews 13:9.
5. Doctrine of the Pharisees - Matthew 16:12.

*Pharisee: A member of an ancient Jewish sect, distinguished by strict observance of the traditional and written law, and commonly held to have pretensions to superior sanctity. A self-righteous person.*

*Sadducee: A member of an ancient Jewish sect that denied the resurrection of the dead, the existence of spirits, and the obligation of oral tradition, emphasizing acceptance of the written Law alone.*

6. Doctrine of Balaam – Rev. 2:14.  
*Note: This was to teach Balak that if he would give his most beautiful women to the Israelite men and cause them to commit idolatry and adultery that God Himself would curse Israel (Num.25:1-9; 21:8,16).*
7. Doctrine of Nicolaitanes – Rev. 2:15.  
*The sect who practiced and taught impure and immoral doctrines, such as committing adultery, fornication, and eating meat offered to idols was not sinful.*

### **Some Common Characteristics of False Doctrines**

1. Does not promote growth in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Peter 3:18.
2. Does not create atmosphere for the effective move of the Holy Spirit in the Church.
3. Breeds quarrels and disunity in the body of Christ – the church. In the past and contemporary history, blood has been shed in mad defense of some false doctrines by the zealots.
4. Attacks God’s salvation plan – the finished work of salvation on the cross of Calvary. 1 Corinthians 3:11.
5. Attacks the divinity & humanity of Jesus Christ the Lord. Acts 2:36.
6. Seeks to change the laws of God. Daniel 7:25.
7. Seeks to EXPAND the Ten commandments by creating more laws and seeking to enforce these extra or surplus man made religious laws with measures that are as stern as sending offenders deep down into deep hell..... if they have the powers.
8. Defenders of false doctrines are often not teachable and bigoted. They are fanatics.
9. Majors on the outside man, even to detriment of his inside. Spending more time grooming the body not the spirit.
10. Overemphasis of one truth, often standing on one legged scripture to the exclusion or obscuring of the others. This is raising the ‘text’ but neglecting the ‘context’.

### **11. Marks of False Teachers in Romans 16:17-18.**

*They: -*

1. Cause divisions among Christians.
2. Cause offences against truth (v.17).
3. Do not serve God (v 17-18).
4. Serve their belly (v 18; Phil.3:19).
5. Use slick tongues to deceive (v 18).
6. Are enemies of the cross (Phil.3:18).
7. Walk contrary to the gospel (Phil.3:17).
8. Glory in their shame (Phil.3:19).
9. Mind earthly things (Phil.3:19).
10. Bring in heresies (2 Pet.2:1; Mt.7:15).

### **12. Twelve Traits of False Teachers: Guilty Of (1 Tim.6:3-5).**

1. Rebellion against truth (v 3).
2. Pride – inflated and puffed up (v 4).
3. Ignorance of truth (v 4).
4. Doting (Gr. Noseo. Sick) over question of law (v 4).

5. Debating-splitting hairs and pitting factions against others (v 4).
6. Envyng sour tempers (v 4).
7. strife

**Finally**

Gospel teacher have a responsibility to teach the truths of the gospel in their purity so that he do not lead anyone astray. When those he teaches understand true doctrine, their hearts are touched and they change their attitudes and behavior.