



**What Must One  
Believe to be Saved?**

# Three Classifications of Doctrine

- 1. Essential Doctrines** – One must believe all of these in order to be saved (and combine this belief with trust, humility, and repentance)
- 2. Core Doctrines** – One can reject these and still be saved, but these are significant enough to divide over
- 3. Secondary Doctrines** – One can reject these and still be saved, and believers should never break fellowship over these

# How to Classify?

- Essential doctrines must be determined exegetically
  - Scripture explicitly and clearly states the necessity of belief in these doctrines for salvation
  - Can be stated in one of two ways:
    1. People must believe this doctrine to be saved
    2. Anyone who does not believe this doctrine and / or rejects this doctrine is condemned

# How to Classify?

- **Core doctrines** are either...
  - Related so closely to one or more essential doctrines that rejection would be grounds for questioning whether the person truly understands the essentials (e.g. omniscience and omnipotence)
  - OR necessary for the appropriate functioning of the individual or church for the glory of God (e.g. church government, election, etc.)

# How to Classify?

- **Secondary doctrines** are...
  - Not closely related to one or more essential doctrines (e.g. viewpoint of Romans 7, whether New Testament saints are commanded to tithe, etc.)
  - Do not prevent the individual or church from the appropriate functioning for the glory of God (e.g. the timing of the rapture)

# What are the Essentials?

## Preliminary to the Gospel

1. **God** – One God, Holy
2. **Man** – Sinful, condemned

## Gospel

3. **Christ** – Person & work of Christ
4. **Grace** – Not by works, gift of God

## Response to the Gospel

5. **Faith** – Belief, repentance

# Essential #1: God

## ■ Only one God

- **Exodus 20:3-6** "You shall have no other gods before Me...<sup>4</sup> "You shall not make for yourself an idol...<sup>5</sup> "You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me,<sup>6</sup> but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

## ■ God is Holy

- **Hebrews 12:14** Strive for peace with everyone, and for the [imputation of God's] holiness without which no one will see the Lord.

# Essential #2: Man

## ■ Man is Sinful

- **James 4:6** But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, "GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE."

## ■ Man is Condemned

- **Luke 18:13-14** "But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, the sinner!' <sup>14</sup> "I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

# Essential #3: Christ

## ■ Deity of Christ

- **John 8:24** "Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins."

## ■ Humanity of Christ

- **2 John 7** For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist.

# Essential #3: Christ (cont.)

## ■ Substitutionary Death, Burial, Resurrection

- **1 Corinthians 15:1-4** ...the gospel...<sup>2</sup> by which also you are saved...<sup>3</sup> For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

## ■ Uniqueness of Christ

- **John 14:6** Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

# Essential #3: Christ (cont.)

## ■ Love for Christ

- **1 Corinthians 16:22** If anyone has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come! (ESV)

## ■ Confession of Christ

- **1 John 2:23** Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also.

# Essential #4: Grace

## ■ Gospel of Grace

- **Galatians 1:8** But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed!
- The gospel is defined in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 as death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, but the emphasis of the gospel in Galatians is grace

## ■ No Reliance on Works

- **Galatians 3:10** For as many as are of the works of the Law are under a curse; for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO DOES NOT ABIDE BY ALL THINGS WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF THE LAW, TO PERFORM THEM."

# Essential #5: Faith

## ■ Fear of God

- **Matthew 10:28** "Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

## ■ Humility

- **Luke 18:17** "Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it at all."

# Essential #5: Faith (cont.)

## ■ Belief

- **Hebrews 11:6** And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

## ■ Repentance

- **Luke 13:3** I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.