



Scriptures and Doctrine :: Doctrine: Why Should I Believe Yours?

Doctrine: Why Should I Believe Yours?, on: 2007/5/15 17:21

I have encountered multiple doctrinal contradictions on this forum and in my search for the true church. I've heard Charismatics, Cessationists, Arminians, Calvinists, Hypercalvinists, Evangelicals, Baptists, Anglicans, all claim to point the "better", "safer", even "funner" way to Jesus. Truth be told, I don't trust any of them.

On the one hand I'm told we're not under the old law. On the other I witness (and participate in) a thread containing over 50 posts on whether it's biblical for a man to have long hair.

Why should I trust **any** of the doctrines of men that arose after my Lord Jesus ascended? Or did his "finished work" need a little polishing by a savage race like ours?

Re: Doctrine: Why Should I Believe Yours? - posted by philologos (), on: 2007/5/15 17:39

Quote:
 -----Why should I trust any of the doctrines of men that arose after my Lord Jesus ascended? Or did his "finished work" need a little polishing by a savage race like ours?

Let's be sure we understand each other. Are you just trying to be provocative or do you really believe that the only part of the Bible that we should trust is what is known as the gospels?

Re:, on: 2007/5/15 18:04

Quote:
 -----Let's be sure we understand each other. Are you just trying to be provocative or do you really believe that the only part of the Bible that we should trust is what is known as the gospels?

To clarify my questions:

1. Why are there so many denominations with so many various doctrines who disagree on so many points - and yet all seem to claim to have the corner on Biblical truth? Who's right?
2. What doctrine does your church teach and why should I, a new believer, believe it?
3. Why would Jesus replace the Old Testament law with "love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, mind, and strength... and love thy neighbor as thyself"... and then "inspire" Paul to add laws pertaining to hair length, women speaking in the congregation, and women wearing head coverings?

Re: Doctrine: Why Should I Believe Yours? - posted by LiveforGod (), on: 2007/5/15 18:12

My dear friend, the truth is that you are correct in all the things you have said. There is much to be confused about now days. One of them being Religion. As you well know there are many Religions claiming that they are Right and everyone else is incorrect.

Quote:
 -----Why should I trust any of the doctrines of men that arose after my Lord Jesus ascended? Or did his "finished work" need a little polishing by a savage race like ours?

The truth is that men have made many doctrines which today are disguised under the name of Christianity. You are right, w

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Why should you believe in something made by men. That's why I advise you to search and believe that things which come from God himself. That's why there is a Holy Bible which is the word of God. The only question you have to ask yourself is: Do I believe the Bible is the Holy word of God? If the answer is yes, then read it and read it and talk to God about what you read. Then you will realize that the true Church of God (and I say church not churches, because if God is the head of the Church then how can there be so many bodies, because the church is the body of Christ according to the Bible) is made of all the persons who have been saved by the marvelous grace of God. So if you are truly saved from sin and do those things which are pleasing in God's sight, then you are already a part of God's Church and need not fear anything because you are God's Child. And about how to know where to congregated with those who belong to God's church, I am sure that the Lord will tell you whom his true worshippers are. They are all those whom serve him in spirit and in truth. May God Bless you my Brother or sister in Christ.

Re: Doctrine: Why Should I Believe Yours? - posted by tjservant (), on: 2007/5/15 18:50

God will not hold us responsible to understand the mysteries of election, predestination, and the divine sovereignty. The best and safest way to deal with these truths is to raise our eyes to God and in deepest reverence say, "O Lord, Thou knowest." Those things belong to the deep and mysterious Profound of God's omniscience. Prying into them may make theologians, but it will never make saints.
A.W. Tozer

Re: Doctrine: Why Should I Believe Yours? - posted by lightwalker (), on: 2007/5/15 19:05

In 2 Tim 2:13 we are told to study to show ourselves approved, a workman who rightly understands the word of truth. God is faithful and promises to reveal to you all truth. So you do not need to listen to anyone except The Holy Spirit who will lead you into ALL truth.
Jesus promised that if you seek you will find, so ask God if you need to know something, He will answer you. After all Jesus came to reveal the truth not hide....

Re: - posted by philologos (), on: 2007/5/15 19:11

Quote:
-----2. What doctrine does your church teach and why should I, a new believer, believe it?

Are you a new believer? You have already made more than 350 posts.
Is this a genuine discussion or are we playing games?

Re:, on: 2007/5/15 20:18

Quote:
-----Are you a new believer? You have already made more than 350 posts.
Is this a genuine discussion or are we playing games?

I've always known God exists, since I was a little child. I received my Bible when I was thirteen. I read it on my own through my teenage years and more extensively in my twenties. The more I sinned, the more I read it - and the more my life became a living hell via conviction.

But I never quite gave myself over to Christ because I'd never heard a pastor *not* compromise the Word of God in any church or denomination I had attended. What I read in the gospels by myself, what Jesus told us to do, I never witnessed in the world or in the churches - the more I hoped there were beacons of truth and goodness somewhere in the world, the more depressed I became because there were no examples (except The Book) for me to follow.

Somehow, while doing Biblical research on the net I came across some quotes by A.W. Tozer and was mesmerized... so I read a couple of his books... and then found his sermons here on SI. The first sermon I heard was "The Holy Spirit and

d Why Some Can't Attain Him". The man actually *believed* what he was saying. No compromise. No agenda. Truth. The Holy Spirit came in, I was crying like a baby at 3 A.M. listening to a sermon preached by a salty old saint dead now forty years... and I was converted.

I am grateful that God blessed me with my Bible, Tozer, and my salvation.

But I am utterly bitter about the state of affairs in the churches that left a poor bastard like me out in the cold for so long. I'm bitter because I had to wrestle with my Bible alone and be converted by the spoken, believed, words of a dead man. And I'm especially bitter because these very same churches who left me to fend for myself and cannot agree on a thing - not a thing - have a fit when an outsider like me, who's read the Bible without the benefit (or maybe it is a benefit) of an official church doctrine, dares to ask a question.

Yes, I am a new believer. And, no, I'm not playing games. I'm in this for my soul.

Re: - posted by Nile (), on: 2007/5/15 20:19

Quote:

Corey_H wrote:

1. Why are there so many denominations with so many various doctrines who disagree on so many points - and yet all seem to claim to have the corner on Biblical truth? Who's right?

2 Peter 3:14-16

*14 Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; 15 and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation—**as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, 16 as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, **in which are so me things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.*****

Quote:

-----2. What doctrine does your church teach and why should I, a new believer, believe it?

1 Thessalonians 5:21

Test all things; hold fast what is good.

Quote:

-----3. Why would Jesus replace the Old Testament law with "love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, mind, and strength... and love thy neighbor as thyself"

So that we're clear...

Matthew 5:17-19

*17 "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. **I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.** 18 For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. 19 Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."*

Jesus did not replace the old law with, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is very clear:

Matthew 22:34-40

34 But when the Pharisees heard that He had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. 35 Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, 36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" 37 Jesus said to him, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." 40 **On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.**

He quoted straight from the Old Testament:

Deuteronomy 6:5

You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

Leviticus 19:18

*You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people, but **you shall love your neighbor as yourself**; I am the LORD.*

Quote:
..... and then "inspire" Paul to add laws pertaining to hair length, women speaking in the congregation, and women wearing head coverings?
.....

Romans 8:1-2

*There is therefore now **no condemnation** to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the **law of sin and death.***

Jesus came to set us free from the law of sin and death. This means we are free from the consequences of sin (mercy) and the power of sin (grace). As believers, we are free from the law of sin and death and we have no condemnation. Jesus did not come to set us free from the Old Testament law, because the Old Testament Law was merely a shadow of the perfect law (of love) to come. When you realize the difference between the two laws (one says do not murder, the other says do not be angry) you will realize that being under the Old Testament law is far easier than being under God's perfect law! So in this sense, Jesus would not be doing us a favor by freeing us from this easier law and replacing it with a harder law.

Also, even the saints of old were free from the Old Testament law (in one sense). Jesus points this out:

Mark 2:23-27

23 Now it happened that He went through the grainfields on the Sabbath; and as they went His disciples began to pluck the heads of grain. 24 And the Pharisees said to Him, "Look, why do they do what is not lawful on the Sabbath?" 25 But He said to them, "Have you never read what David did when he was in need and hungry, he and those with him: 26 how he went into the house of God in the days of Abiathar the high priest, and ate the showbread, which is not lawful to eat except for the priests, and also gave some to those who were with him?" 27 And He said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. 28 Therefore the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath.

Consider this example. A father tucks his two 7 year old boys into bed at night and tells them (gives them a law) not to get out of bed for any reason. In the middle of the night, one boy becomes very sick and goes into convulsions. The other boy jumps out of bed and rushes to tell his parents. Was this wrong of him? Of course not! He understood that the law his father gave him was for his good, and if it was clear that following the law would not result in good, he had the freedom to disregard the law. More so - he was under obligation to disregard the law. The Old Testament Law is the same way.

The New Testament Law is different in that it is not a set of rules and regulations concerning external things, but it is the description of a heart perfectly bent towards loving God. And because a heart perfectly bent towards loving God will reflect God in every way, the New Testament Law is a reflection of who God is. Commands such as give thanks always, do not be angry with anyone, do not worry, be hopeful, trust God - these are all commands dealing with the heart, they are always right to do and they never change, because they are reflections of who Christ is!

With all these things in mind, consider again the instructions Paul gave concerning hair and head-coverings. He gave th

ese instructions for the good of the readers, that much is clear. The only real question to answer is this: Are these instructions pertaining to external things or to internal things? If external, then they are for the readers good (possibly only the readers at that time) and we should follow them - but we know we have liberty to break them if it is clear following them will not be for our good. If internal, then must follow them always, for they reflect the nature of God.

Hopefully I've shed some light on your questions!

Glory to God for everything!!!

-Nile

Re: - posted by Nile (), on: 2007/5/15 20:26

One more thing to encourage you Corey:

Romans 8:28

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

Yep...*all things*. That is why we not to worry about anything, but instead give thanks in all things. :-)

Also, I would point to these teachings by Zac Poonen:

(http://www.cfcindia.com/web/mainpages/basic_christian_teachings.php) Basic Teachings

They are short 15 minute lessons on everything important. They are the best teachings I have heard in my life!

Nile

p.s.

I'm a fairly new believer also, although I've been in the church all my life.

Re: - posted by InTheLight (), on: 2007/5/15 20:41

Quote:
-----I am grateful that God blessed me with my Bible, Tozer, and my salvation...But I am utterly bitter about the state of affairs in the churches that left a poor bastard like me out in the cold for so long.

Dear brother, I am puzzled by this. You thank God for the unspeakable gift of His forgiveness and in the next moment express your unforgiveness and bitterness towards others. This should not be so.

May I humbly ask that you read the following article and do exactly as the writer recommends in regards to making a list. I have found his advice to be of great value in dealing with bitterness and unforgiveness.

(http://www.gospeltruth.net/1835Lect_on_Rev_of_Rel/35revlec03.htm) Breaking up Your Fallow Ground

In Christ,

Ron

Re: Doctrine: Why Should I Believe Yours? - posted by JaySaved, on: 2007/5/15 20:42

Corey,

The best thing you can do is open your bible, read it, pray about what you read, keep asking tons of questions, listen to all points of view, ask God to reveal the truth and always keep your eyes on Jesus.

Re: - posted by UniqueWebRev (), on: 2007/5/15 22:30

Corey,

You are less alone than you think.

Denominations are compromises, not God's word!

Not one of them is wholly true, and many are deeply wrong.

I agree with Jaysaved - stick to your Bible, and listen to the Holy Spirit.

But you must learn to forgive the hurts others have dealt you, even if they have done so on purpose. But if you consider the matter, you will find that when even our nearest and dearest friends and relatives hurt us, much less another member of the entire Corporate Church of Jesus Christ, the hurts are done from ignorance, carelessness, and selfish disregard of what Jesus wants from us.

Being a Christian is hard in this world, and it will get harder, because the Devil is using us all against the other like attack dogs, although hopefully not on SI.

We cannot agree on everything. But we agree on the essential, salvation points, and that is what is necessary, since they are prophetic in nature.

Was Jesus born of a Virgin?
Is Jesus the only Begotten Son of God?
Did He live a perfect Human life?
Did He voluntarily die for our sins?
Was He resurrected from death on the 3rd day?
Did He ascend into Heaven?
And are we covered by His blood, except we turn from Him?
Is Jesus coming back?

If all answers are yes, then we all believe the same essentials. The details are interesting, and are supportive of the main points, but without the main points, the details would be nothing!

God planned Jesus as His failsafe in getting a human family. It worked, He's got one. But the process is painful, and not everybody goes to heaven. Just remember, they are choosing not to.

Blessings,

Forrest

P.S. This why I don't have a denomination!!!! Jesus, the Bible, and the Holy Spirit are my base, and Christians my family, to squabble with.

And in Heaven, Jesus will give us the entire explanation.

Be patient with those who love the Lord, but disagree on details of how God accomplished all that He did in Jesus. And forgive, truly forgive anyone who comes against you, even as we are forgiven.

Re: - posted by ADisciple (), on: 2007/5/15 23:07

Corey,

I read your post in which you tell how you cried at 3 AM, and were converted. I liked that.

And I would like to say, you are not a poor b*.

You have a Father, and, like Isaac, you have a Mother (Gal. 4.26).

Yes, there is a lot to be bitter about in denominational Churchianity. I agonize over it too. But let's not let it consume us. Those who are hearing His Voice are beginning to be aware He is doing "a new thing." I want to be part of that New Thing. "My meditation of HIM (in the midst of all the bitterness) ...shall be sweet."

AD

Re: Doctrine: Why Should I Believe Yours? - posted by crsschk (), on: 2007/5/15 23:45

Quote:
-----I have encountered multiple doctrinal contradictions on this forum and in my search for the true church. I've heard Charismatics, Cessationists, Arminians, Calvinists, Hypercalvinists, Evangelicals, Baptists, Anglicans, all claim to point the "better", "safer", even "funner" way to Jesus. Truth be told, I don't trust any of them.

Good. Don't. But don't throw the baby out with the bath water. You have to realize that these may be forwarded here as thoughts stemming from those various ... holdings but that does not mean those bringing them out to the fore necessarily belong to them. It is often difficult to tell, but I would venture to say that most here are not very fond of denominationalism, for what it's worth I certainly am not.

Quote:
-----On the one hand I'm told we're not under the old law. On the other I witness (and participate in) a thread containing over 50 posts on whether it's biblical for a man to have long hair.

And the point? You may be contradicting yourself here brother. You must be very careful again to how you may wish to characterize what goes on in this setting. There is endless misunderstandings that are born out of presuming. Conduct is also important, *how* we go about things. Have you read the disclaimer? Dodging questions asked of you elsewhere and then turning away to another thread to carry on a perceived matter because you don't like the reasoning or the way it is going ... Look I don't know your real reasoning here but I did ask you to slow down and try and consider some things. By your own admission the very things you stated are the ones that will get you into trouble here, you know what they are.

Quote:
-----But I am utterly bitter about the state of affairs in the churches that left a poor bastard like me out in the cold for so long. I'm bitter because I had to wrestle with my Bible alone and be converted by the spoken, believed, words of a dead man. And I'm especially bitter because these very same churches who left me to fend for myself and cannot agree on a thing - not a thing - have a fit when an outsider like me, who's read the Bible without the benefit (or maybe it is a benefit) of an official church doctrine, dares to ask a question.

Ron (InTheLight) already drew attention to this but I would go further and ask that you reconsider what you are stating by this. Earlier you were not merely asking questions but positing *statements* and those were challenged, that they were in fact not a personal affront to you, it is part and parcel of what everyone is accountable to here as this is a place for *discussion*. Just as well you are drawing a presupposition and are in danger of being prideful if you want to hold to a 'me and my Bible' and then turn around and accuse everyone else of fault for doing the same.

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This may sound worse than it is intended and I would rather risk addressing it all up front before it gets out of hand. You have a zeal but I wonder if you are really interested in learning or just positing? Even the heading of this post raises the question. You have admitted to being bitter already and the question is put in such a way that it lends to the same by your comments. Brother, there is so much here to weigh and consider, to chew on for awhile, to process ... please do not assume things and please, if you want to discuss matters learn to slow down and hold your peace, give place to others, recognize your surroundings, realize that there are many coming here to be fed besides yourself. The best question any of us can continually ask ourselves is;

Could I be wrong here?

Believe me, if you can allow it you will learn far much more in a much better fashion.

Re:, on: 2007/5/16 1:48

Quote:

Quote:
-----On the one hand I'm told we're not under the old law. On the other I witness (and participate in) a thread containing over 50 posts on whether it's biblical for a man to have long hair.

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My point about the 50 "hair" thread postings is that I feel it's a form of phariseeism, or "straining at gnats". That was my point all along.

I didn't "dodge" the questions - one of the posters requested I move it to another thread. You'll find it earlier on that thread.

Quote:

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Ron (InTheLight) already drew attention to this but I would go further and ask that you reconsider what you are stating by this. Earlier you were not merely asking questions but positing statements and those were challenged, that they were is not a personal affront to you, it is part and parcel of what everyone is accountable to here as this is a place for discussion. Just as well you are drawing a presupposition and are in danger of being prideful if you want to hold to a 'me and my Bible' and then turn around and accuse everyone else of fault for doing the same.

Point taken. I posit, however, that if I make a point and someone makes a counterpoint - game on.

As to reconsidering what I stated, I have. Many times. The churches I've encountered are dismal, spiritless places.

Quote:
-----This may sound worse than it is intended and I would rather risk addressing it all up front before it gets out of hand. You have a zeal but I wonder if you are really interested in learning or just positing? Even the heading of this post raises the question. You have admitted to being bitter

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Could I be wrong here?

Believe me, if you can allow it you will learn far much more in a much better fashion.

"Could I be wrong?" Sure I could be. So could you. So could the Armenians, the Calvinists... the list goes on. What a sad state of affairs that no one knows for sure.

This is truly alarming.

You're right about your last point. My conversion would go a heck of a lot easier if I just smiled, nodded, and agreed with what everyone told me.

Re:, on: 2007/5/16 2:20

crsschk,

You're right. I have been argumentative. I apologize to you and all here.

Re: - posted by ADisciple (), on: 2007/5/16 2:50

You said it is a sad state of affairs that nobody knows for sure what's right.

And you mention the Calvinist/Arminian debate as one of the things. It's sad (to me) that true-hearted brethren have been in the wrestling ring with this one for centuries, and still no one has come up the winner.

Maybe there's a message in that. It was said of Watchman Nee that whenever he met a man, he always looked for his limp. (Referring to Jacob after he had wrestled with the Angel, and the Angel touched him, crippled him, in the thigh, the place of his great strength.) I think maybe God is after something like that in us more than He is after people who have got it all figured out.

He's wants to touch us in the place of our strength, too. And then, limping, it is easier to walk with the Truth. Maybe we don't know as much, haven't got it all figured out, but we walk in Truth.

AD

Re: - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2007/5/16 3:47

brother Corey, i can identify with much of your thinking, here is an article a brother posted a while back...

i find it just wonderful :-) maybe you read it already???

'I was preparing to go to Nyack College. Before I left there was one burning question I had in mind, and I went to Dr. Tozer and said, "Could you give me some advice concerning the problem of Calvinism versus Arminianism?" And I'll never forget the advice he gave me. At the time I thought it was rather inconclusive and not too helpful. But I listened carefully. He said, "My son, when you get to college you're going to find that all of the boys will be gathered in a room discussing and arguing over Arminianism and Calvinism night after night after night. I'll tell you what to do, Cliff. Go to your room and meet God. At the end of four years you'll be way down the line and they'll still be where they started, because greater minds than yours have wrestled with this problem and have not come up with satisfactory conclusions. **Instead, learn to know God.**"

-Cliff Westergren

Re: - posted by philologos (), on: 2007/5/16 4:03

Quote:

-----Yes, I am a new believer. And, no, I'm not playing games. I'm in this for my soul.

OK, then I'm in it for your soul too. :-)

Thank you too for the mini-bio that puts your question into a useful context.

I may be repeating what others have said subsequent to this reply of yours to my question, but your question is perfectly valid and deserves a reasoned answer. I think we have your answers in John's record. "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, **he will guide you into all truth**: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and **he will shew you things to come**." (John 16:13 KJVS) This was the specific promise of Jesus to his apostles. Although Christians have a share in this promise it is strictly a promise to those whom he had commissioned to be his delegated representatives.

The promise to the apostles, as seen here, is twofold;

- a) he shall lead you into all truth
- b) he will show you things to come

In John 20:22 we have a unique record of Jesus commissioning these same apostles and breathing upon them and saying 'Receive now the Holy Spirit'. The context of this resurrection appearance can be found in Luke's gospel; it is the gathering with his apostles in the upper room. When Luke recounts this resurrection appearance he has nothing to say about 'receiving the Spirit' but he does give the context in greater detail; "And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures," (Luke 24:44-45 KJVS) Apparently the occasion of his 'opening their understanding' and 'breathing upon them' are synchronised here. My own conviction is that this is a key event in understanding the nature of the Bible. The Spirit, in this encounter, empowered them to understand the entire Old Testament; that is the significance of the phrase "law of Moses, prophets and psalms, it was the threefold division of the Hebrew scriptures.

These men then become the living link between Christ and the generations that never saw him in the flesh. We can see this in the way in which he prayed; "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth. Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;" (John 17:17-20 KJVS) We should note the two groups of people that Christ says he is praying for here;

- a) his apostles.
- b) those who would become believers as a result of the testimony of his apostles.

The apostles were uniquely commissioned and ultimately empowered to be the living continuance of the word and ministry of Christ; not in his saving death and life but in terms of authority. The question we are dealing with here is just that; the nature of spiritual authority. Christ delegated his personal authority to his apostles. This issue of authority is what divided the Catholics from the Protestants; the ultimate authority, the Church or the Book? The Catholics have a good point when they see authority as residing in particular men rather than in a book... whoa, wait for it... but they have no justification in claiming that that authority could be passed on by the imposition of hands in 'ordination'.

You will be thinking 'but where does Paul come in?' Paul was commissioned as an apostle-extraordinary by Christ, and takes his place as a fully recognised 'apostle' of Christ. In this sense we may regard him as 'taking the place of Judas.' (Acts 1:20) (I am not disputing the role of Matthias here as one of the twelve) In the sense that the apostles of Christ carried unique authority personally given by Christ; this was always Paul's claim. Paul's 'scripture writing' authority is recognised by Peter... "and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according

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g to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures. (2Peter 3:15-16 NKJV) I have quoted from the NKJV here because it brings out well the conviction of Peter that Paul's writings, all of them, were a full part of Peter's personal canon of scripture. For Peter the written epistles of Paul were of equal inspiration as the Law of Moses or those words of Jesus in 'red'.

You will see that what is known as the canon of scripture is building here. Up to this point in our explanation we have;

- a) The Old Testament, personally endorsed by Christ
- b) The accounts of Matthew, Mark (Peter was the eyewitness behind this record) and John
- c) The epistles of John and the Revelation
- d) The epistles of Peter and consequently...
- e) The epistles of Paul.

Luke was a travelling companion to Paul and, in a sense, the true historian of the 'beginnings', so we can add...

- f) Luke and the Acts

That leaves only Jude and Hebrews. These two books were early recognised by Christians as having the same kind of inspiration as the rest of the New Testament and included in the canon.

So in summary, why should we believe everything later than the gospels and why should we incorporate it into our system of divine authority? Because Jesus made it plain that there was 'more to come' and that his apostles would be the guardians of that additional revelation. This is why I believe the testimony of the 'rest of scripture' in the New Testament... because that Jesus, in whom I put all my trust, tells me I ought to.

This is the nature of scripture 'inspiration', now how Christians have 'interpreted' those holy scriptures is another matter... :-)

Re: Nothing but ... - posted by crsschk (), on: 2007/5/16 9:46

Quote:
-----Point taken. I posit, however, that if I make a point and someone makes a counterpoint - game on.

... Will come back to this.

Quote:
-----"Could I be wrong?" Sure I could be. So could you. So could the Armenians, the Calvinists... the list goes on. What a sad state of affairs that no one knows for sure.

The whole reason for mentioning it brother is from experience.

Quote:
-----This is truly alarming.

In many ways you are quite right, one of the biggest overlooked issues I have observed is how the deeper more penetrating questions go by the way side or come up as glaring in such disputings such as what you mentioned. Others here have well pointed out the same thing. I do believe also there is a lesson there. However, every once in awhile a saint comes along who has a better perspective on the matter. Here is such a one;
(https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?viewmodeflat&order0&topic_id11067&forum36&post_id&refreshGo) Practical Wisdom for Calvinists*

Quote:
-----You're right about your last point. My conversion would go a heck of a lot easier if I just smiled, nodded, and agreed with what every one told me.

Am hoping this was further clarified by your subsequent post, which is accepted brother. Corey, there is nothing here but love for you and acceptance to bring forth those things on your heart. It is one of the vast difficulties I personally have in this minor role of moderating things, a lot of redundancy in trying to get across the point that this is not 'game on', but game over (am playing with your words here a bit). It is not a duel, a matching of wits or an outdoing of each other. To be tested and challenged is for the benefit of all, unto edification not towards manipulation. To cut out the scaffolding under presumptions is to put everyone on the same level which were are,

So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. Rom 12:5

Even as they have not the same 'office'.

We ought to be able to work through difficulties and questions, doctrinal issues and all the other topics and items that come through here and still keep ever before us;

Joh 13:35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

The most glaring thing that can come about in some disputings is that we deny that admonishen, tack it on as an afterthought rather than a forethought. We can often prove just the opposite by being known as something other than that, am speaking in sweeping generalities here and am guilty of just as much over the course of tenure here. Much that has been regrettable.

Also, do understand though where you are coming from in bitterness of spirit and wondering at many things. Am not much of one for fixed patterns in God's economy of doing things, always it seems the proverbial curve-ball between us in how He may lead one in contrast to another. But have known of and observed some similar things where having started perhaps on wrong footing (for instance in my case with the whole of WOF styled teaching) the 'pendulumitis' as Zac Poone n put it carried over to the other extreme and began to be very forceful towards doctrinal ... 'pin point accuracy'? perhaps is what I am thinking. And it was driven by that same bitterness and resentfulness of spirit. There can be a latching unto certain pre defined constructs and then a constant defending of position, a fitting of everything into these presuppositions. It is a long way of saying, trading one for another. Like yourself, Tozer threw a giant wrench in everything I was holding to and then 'discovering' this wonder of wonder just created a whole upsetting of everything I "thought" I knew and understood. I have more "perhaps" and things held in abeyance than I ever thought possible. I didn't exactly find a thousand questions answered but ten thousand more to be asked. But there is a large bit of hyperbole in all that... Actually what I did begin to find and still do is that there are far more penetrating issues that are often behind, suppressed and not dealt with even when they rear their ugly heads. Pride. False humility. Honesty. Heart sins. Anger. Bitterness. All the things that our Lord was trying to get at, the apostles repeated, character and integrity matters. Core issues.

It is the great beauty in my opinion that what exists here cuts across many lines and is difficult to crowd into a corner or place a label on it. What are we? As members here? Try and place a denominational tag on it and just as readily something could be drawn from to dispute it, contradict it, cause yet another consideration. It's been attempted, everything from legalism to "Charismatic" and it always cause a bit of a chuckle, 'really?' Have you read _____ :-)

A lot of rich history here, a lot to consider and by and large just some real honest saints trying to get at the meaning and meat of matters. Glad you are a part of the whole peculiar and wonderful thing that it is.

Re: Doctrine: Why Should I Believe Yours? - posted by ADisciple (), on: 2007/5/16 11:25

Quote:

Corey_H wrote:
Why should I trust **any** of the doctrines of men that arose after my Lord Jesus ascended? Or did his "finished work" need a little polishing by a savage race like ours?

Scriptures and Doctrine :: Doctrine: Why Should I Believe Yours?

Reading your first post over again, this seems to be saying you have a question as to the authority and inspiration of the epistles? Which were written after Jesus ascended. (I picked this up from Philologos' latest post.) Actually the gospels, too, were written after He ascended. But the epistles are, in fact, the work of the ascended Christ: for they are the writings of men who wrote as they were inspired by the Holy Spirit sent from the Throne.

(Maybe you don't question this in the first place: maybe you are just questioning the doctrines men have produced after the canon of Scripture was in place? In which case it is wise to check out all things, prove all things, against the Scriptures, leaning heavily for help on the same Spirit who inspired them.)

AD

Re: - posted by ADisciple (), on: 2007/5/16 11:31

Quote:

hmmhmm wrote:

'I was preparing to go to Nyack College. Before I left there was one burning question I had in mind, and I went to Dr. Tozer and said, "Could you give me some advice concerning the problem of Calvinism versus Arminianism?" And I'll never forget the advice he gave me. At the time I thought it was rather inconclusive and not too helpful. But I listened carefully. He said, "My son, when you get to college you're going to find that all of the boys will be gathered in a room discussing and arguing over Arminianism and Calvinism night after night after night. I'll tell you what to do, Cliff. Go to your room and meet God. At the end of four years you'll be way down the line and they'll still be where they started, because greater minds than yours have wrestled with this problem and have not come up with satisfactory conclusions. **Instead, learn to know God.**"

-Cliff Westergren

Thanks, Hmmhmm, for this little gem of truth. I wish this could be pasted up on a bill-board in large letters for all to see.

The wise will hear, and heed this.

AD

Re: Doctrine: Why Should I Believe Yours?, on: 2007/5/16 12:46

Hi Corey

I've just finished reading this thread, and there have been some wonderful responses, so thank you for starting it.

As a very new Christian I imagined that *all* Christians agreed 100% about all matters of doctrine! I soon found out my mistake, but it upset me very much that Christians could disagree - often very strongly.

As has been mentioned, the Predestination/free will debate was a very hot topic in the Christian Union when I was a student. Most Christian students were strong Calvinists, and the one or two lonely Armenians got very short shrift from the vocal majority.

Gradually I began to accept that believers sometimes disagree very strongly on non-vital points of doctrine. And even to enjoy a certain amount of debate on various topics. After pondering on the arguments for and against I eventually (it took a few years!) came to the conclusion that *both* predestination and free will are true!

I think much of the doctrinal arguments are because we tend to try to understand the things of God solely with our mind, and forget that spiritual Truth can only be fully appreciated and understood through the Holy Spirit. Also that we in the West are geared to Western, Greek, thought, not Eastern, Hebrew, thought - the perspective of the writers of the Bible.

...I do believe that the basic issue has to be settled between you and the Lord, not between you and other people, or churches, or even deciding which doctrines are true and which aren't.

Scriptures and Doctrine :: Doctrine: Why Should I Believe Yours?

When we react emotionally to people, or over differing opinions, there is always a reason that is to do with us, not so much the other person.

You said you have a lot of bitterness. This is *your* problem; what others do, say, or react like isn't.

OK, some who hold various conflicting doctrines and argue over them, (sometimes in a way that disturbs you), no doubt have problems too, but that is none of your business! Your business is finding out from the Lord *why* you feel bitter. If you repent of whatever He reveals as sin on your part He will deal with and heal, if necessary, anything in your soul and personality that has allowed a "root of bitterness" to grow.

I speak from experience. Although for me it was not so much bitterness as confusion and hurt. Also an irresistible compulsion to argue!

Even since joining SI the Lord has been dealing with this latter problem. Indeed He has *used* SI to help this along. But I joined with wrong motives (wanting to give others the benefit of my wisdom and Bible knowledge! :oops:) The root of the problem was inferiority that caused me to "show off" in order to make people accept and respect me...

Its wonderful how the Lord searches our hearts and exposes things we sometimes don't even know about in ourselves, not to condemn but to save.

Many times the Lord has gently and firmly brought me up short when I was complaining about what others had said or done that was wrong, and showed me my own heart, as in "Do you know *why* you feel like that(/said that/did that)?"

Blessings in Him

Jeannette

Re:, on: 2007/5/16 12:52

ADisciple said

Quote:
-----Maybe there's a message in that. It was said of Watchman Nee that whenever he met a man, he always looked for his limp. (Referring to Jacob after he had wrestled with the Angel, and the Angel touched him, crippled him, in the thigh, the place of his great strength.) I think maybe God is after something like that in us more than He is after people who have got it all figured out.

He's wants to touch us in the place of our strength, too. And then, limping, it is easier to walk with the Truth. Maybe we don't know as much, haven't got it all figured out, but we walk in Truth.

Thanks brother. Great analogy.

hmmhmm, thanks for the story on Tozer.