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True and Sound Doctrine.

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Learn the Bible at Home

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

True and Sound Doctrine.

Topics.

- Teachings contrary to sound doctrine.
- A different doctrine and sound words.
- People will not endure sound doctrine.
- An elder must be able to give instruction in sound doctrine.
- Teach what accords with sound doctrine.

TEACHINGS CONTRARY TO SOUND DOCTRINE

- **1 Timothy 1:8-10:** Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, ⁹understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, ¹⁰the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine.

Sound Doctrine in these verses refers to every teaching that teaches right behaviour while doctrine that is contrary to sound doctrine refers to every teaching that leads to wrong behaviour.

NOTE: the words, "Men who practice homosexuality," have been cruelly used against those born with a natural attraction to the same sex. Clearly, we cannot cover this topic here since it is far too large to do so, but for those who are interested in looking at a far more graceful view that is contrary to the harsh condemning traditional view see the title:

- Same Sex Relationships (ON WEBSITE MENU).

A DIFFERENT DOCTRINE AND SOUND WORDS

- **1 Timothy 6:3:** If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness.

Sound doctrine in this context, are doctrines and teachings that:

- Agree with the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Lead to living a life that honours God and brings a good name to the Lord Jesus Christ and the Christian faith.

PEOPLE WILL NOT ENDURE SOUND DOCTRINE

- **2 Timothy 4:3:** preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. ³For the time is coming when people will not endure sound doctrine (teaching in ESV), but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, ⁴and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

From these verses we learn that teachings contrary to sound doctrine are teaching that appeal to our own sensual and fleshy passions (i.e., ego, pride and greed etc.), they are teachings that promote riches and wealth and fame, importance, power and control.

NOTICE: Paul says that these people accumulate these teachers to suit themselves, meaning to suit what they want to hear. If no one was interested in the messages of these false teachers they would be out of work which means at some level those who follow these leaders because they are preaching messages that appeal to them are at some level as guilty as the false teachers. These teachers understand what appeals to our fallen nature and for their own fame, riches and power cleverly twist and distort the Scriptures and build messages that appeal to self, ego and pride.

AN ELDER MUST BE ABLE TO GIVE INSTRUCTION IN SOUND DOCTRINE

- **Titus 1:5-9:** This is why I (Paul) left you (Timothy) in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you—⁶if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination. ⁷For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, ⁸but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined ⁹He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.

The focus here is an elder and overseer of the church Paul tells Timothy to appoint elders in every town to oversee the churches in that town that are being held in the homes of faithful brothers and sisters. Those who desire to be overseers of God's people must be honest, have integrity and be faithful to their wife. Their children who are still under their authority are to be believers and not children who are living a life of wrongdoing or are rebellious and morally corrupt.

Following are three reasons for this:

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1. If an overseer of the family of Christ cannot control his own life and train his own children in right behaviour how is he going to build up the body of Christ in love and right behaviour?
2. If an overseer of the family of Christ cheats on his own wife who can trust him to be faithful to the household of God.
3. If he and his children live corrupt lives amongst the community, he and his children will bring a bad testimony to God and the name of Christ and the Christian faith.

This is why Paul says an overseer of Christ's family must not be prideful, arrogant, quick-tempered, violent, a drunkard or greedy for gain, but must be above reproach so that he does not bring a bad testimony to God and the Lord Jesus Christ. For this reason, those who are chosen to be elders or overseers should be solid in their faith, hospitable (meaning welcoming, friendly, generous, kind and sociable), a lover of good, self-controlled, doing what is right and good.

Added to these they must teach the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ as Christ; the apostles and Paul taught it and not distort and twist it for their own gain and be able to rebuke those who do so.

NOW GO TO VERSE TEN:

- **Titus 1:10-16:** For there are many (ungodly elders) who are insubordinate, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision party (Jews). ¹¹They must be silenced, since they are upsetting whole families by teaching for shameful gain what they ought not to teach. ¹²One of the Cretans, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons." ¹³This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith, ¹⁴not devoting themselves to Jewish myths and the commands of people who turn away from the truth. ¹⁵To the pure, all things are pure, but

to the defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure; but both their minds and their consciences are defiled. ¹⁶They (the ungodly elders) profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work.

In contrast to godly overseers are those who are disobedient, defiant and rebellious, they are liars and deceivers who upsetting whole families for their own selfish gain. They are prideful and love to spend hours talking about speculations simply to display their vain intellectual knowledge. They confess to know God, but by their prideful, hypocritical lifestyle show that they do not know Him at all. The words:

- To the pure, all things are pure (v15).

Means that no matter what a faithful brother and sister in Christ whose mind and conscience is full of integrity, truthfulness goodness and sincerity say or does, it will always be right, good and uncorrupted. The words:

- To the defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure; but both their minds and their consciences are defiled (v15).

Means that no matter what a person confessing to believe in Christ whose mind and conscience is defiled, dishonest, deceitful, untruthful and insincere says or does it will always be corrupted in some form and some manner. Though these verses do mention the words sound doctrine they do not actually say what sound doctrine is, but it is safe to say that sound doctrine refers to any biblical teaching that is in harmony with the truth that salvation is by faith and God's grace and not by trusting in religious works or adhering to ceremonial rites, holy days and keeping religious customs and traditions and in harmony with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and the teachings of the apostles and of Paul.

TEACH WHAT ACCORDS WITH SOUND DOCTRINE

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- **Titus 2:1-12:** But as for you teach what accords with sound doctrine. ²Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness. ³Older women likewise are to be reverent in behaviour, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, ⁴and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, ⁵to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled. ⁶Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled. ⁷Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, ⁸and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us. ⁹Slaves are to be submissive to their own masters in everything; they are to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, ¹⁰not pilfering, but showing all good faith, so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour. ¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹²training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age.

In the context of these verses sound doctrine refers to doctrines and teachings that lead to:

- An honest life of faith, self-control and a godly life.
- A sober-mind, integrity, dignity, self-respect and self-control.
- A sound faith established in grace love and in faithfulness.
- Teaching what is good, right and true.
- Reverent behaviour and respect toward others.
- Husbands and wives faithfully loving each other and their children.

- Being self-controlled and working honestly.
- Being humble and doing what is right and good
- Honesty and obeying those who have authority over us.

Doctrines contrary to sound doctrine and teaching would be teachings that lead:

- To wrong behaviour, wrong attitudes and to sensuality and sexual immorality.
- Back under the law and away from grace
- Away from love and away from Christ.
- To worldly passions (i.e., craving for fame, importance, power and control and hungering after riches and wealth, luxurious living and material possessions, opulent homes, top of the range cars, designer cloths and such like things.

Perhaps someone might wonder, "What is wrong if a brother or sister can afford these things?" The answer to this question is that Christ calls us to help the poor and less fortunate when we are able and not to live a life of self-indulgence and opulent excess. Certainly it is not wrong for those who are blessed with riches to enjoy living in a good home and drive a good car, but consider the good testimony it would bring to God and the Lord Jesus Christ and how much good could be done if instead of indulging in opulence and excess the money was used to extend the Kingdom of God and to help the poor and the needy. There are people in this world who do not even have fresh water to drink, think of the money wasted on material excess and self-indulgent lifestyles that could be spent paying for fresh water wells to be dug in their villages. These wells would provide fresh water for hundreds of children.

Education fees could be giving to parents in third world countries. These are the things that not only store up eternal treasures in heaven and thrill and delight the heart of the Lord Jesus Christ and the heart of his heavenly Father, but also the things that bring honour to God and a good testimony to the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Christian faith. Teaching what accords with sound doctrine refers to teachings that lead to doing-good and what is right and reflects upon the Lord Jesus Christ in a good way and doctrines that lead to living life in such a manner that no one can speak against God and the good name of the Lord Jesus Christ or the Christian faith.

Paul in verse fourteen tells us that:

- Jesus gave himself to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works (Titus 2:14).

SUMMARY OF SOUND DOCTRINE

When Paul speaks of sound doctrine, he does not have in mind every teaching of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. Certainly, God's word and every teaching and doctrine in the Bible could be spoken of as being sound doctrine and sound teaching and it is true that the more, we understand of the Bible the stronger our faith will grow. But when Paul speaks of true and sound doctrine his focus is not every teaching and every doctrine from Genesis to Revelation, but upon all doctrine that is in harmony with:

- The teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ and of the apostles and Paul.
- The message of the cross and the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

- The New Covenant of grace and the law of love.
- The truth salvation to eternal life is by faith and God's grace and not good works, self-effort and trusting in religious works.

True and Sound Doctrine also refers to any doctrine that leads to:

- A pure heart and good and right behaviour.
- Living according to the law of love and toward respecting others.
- A good conscience and a sincere faith
- Living toward God, the Lord Jesus Christ and others in honest faith.

Christians should endeavour to live a life that honours God and brings a good name to the Lord Jesus Christ and the Christian faith so that they do not cause the world to speak against Christ and his heavenly Father and by their good lifestyle give no one a reason to cause the name of God and the teaching of the Lord Jesus Christ to be reviled, loathed, insulted and scorned.

For further information see the titles:

- Truth in, Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).
- Gospel (ON WEBSITE MENU).

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