

# False Teachers and Dangerous Doctrines

- On October 8th, ChurchLeaders.com posted a recent Barna study entitled **Barna: We're Experiencing Another Reformation, and Not in a Good Way.**
- The results were not just alarming, they were frightening. In a study of evangelicals (people who claim to be Christians), the following are just some of the results:

- 1. 52% reject absolute moral truth.
- 2. 61% did not read the Bible daily.
- 3. 75% believe people are basically good.
- 4. 60% believe the Bible conflicts with their beliefs.
- 5. 54% are unwilling to define human life as sacred.
- 6. 50% claim the Bible is vague on abortion.
- 7. 43% believe Jesus sinned.
- 8. 58% believe the Holy Spirit is symbolic.
- 9. 62% of church-goers say it is important to have some type of faith.

- 10. 50% do not view sex outside of marriage as sinful.
- 11. 40% do not believe lying is sinful.
- 12. 48% believe in salvation through works.
- 13. 43% do not believe in a God-Given purpose for humanity.
- 14. 42% seek moral guidance from somewhere other than the Bible.
- 15. 34% reject marriage as only one man and one woman.
- 16. 34% approve of abortion if it spares the mother from emotional and financial hardship.
- 17. 36% fail to seek and pursue God's will for their life each day.

# I) Defining Doctrine

- Doctrine simply means “teaching.”
- Jude 1:3 (NASB) *3 Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.*
- Jude 1:3 (LBLA) *3 Amados, por el gran empeño que tenía en escribiros acerca de nuestra común salvación, he sentido la necesidad de escribiros exhortándoos a contender ardientemente por la fe que de una vez para siempre fue entregada a los santos.*

**In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word that parallels the English word “doctrine” typically refers to truth revealed by God, and it is most often translated as “teaching,” “learning,” or “instruction.”**

- The word is ἑτεροδιδασκαλέω, teach differently, teach false doctrine.
- Titus 1:9 (NASB) *holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.*
- Titus 1:9 (LBLA) *9 reteniendo la palabra fiel que es conforme a la enseñanza, para que sea capaz también de exhortar con sana doctrina y refutar a los que contradicen.*

- 1 Timothy 1:3 (NASB) *3 As I urged you upon my departure for Macedonia, remain on at Ephesus so that you may instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrines,*
- 1 Timothy 1:3 (LBLA) *3 Como te rogué al partir para Macedonia que te quedaras en Efeso para que instruyeras a algunos que no enseñaran doctrinas extrañas,*

*To teach other or different  
doctrine i.e. deviating from  
the truth:*

**Greek-English Lexicon of the  
New Testament.**



- **prolegomena** (a critical or discursive introduction to a book),
- **pneumatology** (branch of Christian theology concerning the Holy Spirit),
- **hamartiology** (a study of the doctrine of sin),
- and **soteriology** (the doctrine of salvation).

**Yet doctrine can also be  
categorized in the simplest  
terms:**

**It is either true or false.**

- To determine if a doctrine or teaching is true or false in its content, we can use biblical terminology to ask several questions.
- **ITS ORIGIN**, is it from God the Creator or from God's creation?
- **ITS AUTHORITY**, is it biblical or unbiblical?
- **IN CONSISTENCY**, is it familiar or unfamiliar? (An identifying mark of cults is that they will center on, focus on, a passage of scripture that is unfamiliar to those who know the Bible.)
  - 1 Peter 2:24 (NASB) *24 and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross (literally wood), so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.*
  - 1 Peter 2:24 (LBLA) *24 y El mismo llevó nuestros pecados en su cuerpo sobre la cruz, a fin de que muramos al pecado y vivamos a la justicia, porque por sus heridas fuisteis sanados.*

- **IN QUALITY**, is it sound or unsound?
- **IN BENEFIT**, is it healthy or unhealthy?
- **IN VALUE**, is it profitable or unprofitable?
- When we have properly evaluated the doctrine, we establish our responsibility toward it: we must either hold to it or reject it.

- Ephesians 4:4-6 (NASB) *4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.*
- Ephesians 4:4-6 (LBLA) *4 Hay un solo cuerpo y un solo Espíritu, así como también vosotros fuisteis llamados en una misma esperanza de vuestra vocación; 5 un solo Señor, una sola fe, un solo bautismo, 6 un solo Dios y Padre de todos, que está sobre todos, por todos y en todos.*

<b>Content</b>	<b>True</b>	<b>False</b>
Origin	Creator	Creation
Authority	Biblical	Unbiblical
Consistency	Familiar	Unfamiliar
Quality	Sound	Unsound
Benefit	Healthy	Unhealthy
Value	Profitable	Unprofitable
The Christian's Responsibility	Accept ✓	Reject ✗

**The Christian's responsibility is clear:**

**We are to learn God's truth by searching God's Word.**

**We must carefully evaluate every teaching according to God's unfailing standard.**

**What passes the test is sound doctrine, and what fails the test is false doctrine.**

**As we conclude today, let's consider both the high cost of false doctrine and the great gain of sound doctrine.**



**False doctrine confuses truth and error, while sound doctrine distinguishes truth and error.**

- *“For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food ... solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil” (Hebrews 5:12,14).*

- Hebrews 6:4-6 (NASB) *4 For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, 5 and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, 6 and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame.*
- Hebrews 6:4-6 (LBLA) *4 Porque en el caso de los que fueron una vez iluminados, que probaron del don celestial y fueron hechos partícipes del Espíritu Santo, 5 que gustaron la buena palabra de Dios y los poderes del siglo venidero, 6 pero después cayeron, es imposible renovarlos otra vez para arrepentimiento, puesto que de nuevo crucifican para sí mismos al Hijo de Dios y lo exponen a la ignominia pública.*

# False doctrine undermines godliness by promoting what is novel or speculative in place of what is true.

- 1 Timothy 1:3-4 (NASB) *3 As I urged you upon my departure for Macedonia, remain on at Ephesus so that you may instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrines, 4 nor to pay attention to myths and endless genealogies, which give rise to mere speculation rather than furthering the administration of God which is by faith.*
- 1 Timothy 1:3-4 (LBLA) *3 Como te rogué al partir para Macedonia que te quedaras en Efeso para que instruyeras a algunos que no enseñaran doctrinas extrañas, 4 ni prestaran atención a mitos y genealogías interminables, lo que da lugar a discusiones inútiles en vez de hacer avanzar el plan de Dios que es por fe, así te encargo ahora.*

- 1 Timothy 1:5-6 (NASB) *5 But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. 6 For some men, straying from these things, have turned aside to fruitless discussion,*
- 1 Timothy 1:5-6 (LBLA) *5 Pero el propósito de nuestra instrucción es el amor nacido de un corazón puro, de una buena conciencia y de una fe sincera. 6 Pues algunos, desviándose de estas cosas, se han apartado hacia una vana palabrería,*

# False doctrine promotes sin, while sound doctrine prevents sin.

- 2 Timothy 3:16-17 - *“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work”*.
- 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (LBLA) 16 *Toda Escritura es inspirada por Dios y útil para enseñar, para reprender, para corregir, para instruir en justicia, 17 a fin de que el hombre de Dios sea perfecto, equipado para toda buena obra.*

**False doctrine elevates ungodly leadership,  
while sound doctrine qualifies godly  
leadership.**

- Titus 1:9 (NASB) *9 holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.*
- Titus 1:9 (LBLA) *9 reteniendo la palabra fiel que es conforme a la enseñanza, para que sea capaz también de exhortar con sana doctrina y refutar a los que contradicen.*

# False doctrine permits false teachers, while sound doctrine protects against false teachers.

- The false teaching in Crete had weakened the church for the “*empty talkers and deceivers*” of the circumcision party (Titus 1:10).
- Titus 1:16 (NASB) *16 They profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed.*
- Titus 1:16 (LBLA) *16 Profesan conocer a Dios, pero con sus hechos lo niegan, siendo abominables y desobedientes e inútiles para cualquier obra buena.*

# Sound teaching equips leaders and individual Christians alike to refute false teachers.

- Titus 1:9 (NASB) *9 holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.*
- Titus 1:9 (LBLA) *9 reteniendo la palabra fiel que es conforme a la enseñanza, para que sea capaz también de exhortar con sana doctrina y refutar a los que contradicen.*



**False doctrine removes God's blessing,  
while sound doctrine ensures God's  
blessing.**

- Revelation 1:3 (NASB) *3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.*
- Revelation 1:3 (LBLA) *3 Bienaventurado el que lee y los que oyen las palabras de la profecía y guardan las cosas que están escritas en ella, porque el tiempo está cerca.*

- Revelation 22:7 (NASB) 7 *"And behold, I am coming quickly. Blessed is he who heeds the words of the prophecy of this book."*
- Revelation 22:7 (LBLA) 7 *He aquí, yo vengo pronto. Bienaventurado el que guarda las palabras de la profecía de este libro.*

# Yet it also solemnly warns of the dire consequences for those who fail to hold to its doctrine.

- To the church at Pergamum John writes Revelation 2:14-16 (NASB) *14 'But I have a few things against you, because you have there some who hold the teaching of Balaam, who kept teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit acts of immorality. 15 'So you also have some who in the same way hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans. 16 'Therefore repent; or else I am coming to you quickly, and I will make war against them with the sword of My mouth.*
- Revelation 2:14-16 (LBLA) *14 'Pero tengo unas pocas cosas contra ti, porque tienes ahí a los que mantienen la doctrina de Balaam, que enseñaba a Balac a poner tropiezo ante los hijos de Israel, a comer cosas sacrificadas a los ídolos y a cometer actos de inmoralidad. 15 'Así tú también tienes algunos que de la misma manera mantienen la doctrina de los nicolaítas. 16 'Por tanto, arrepíentete; si no, vendré a ti pronto y pelearé contra ellos con la espada de mi boca.*

**False doctrine debilitates the church for times of difficulty, while sound doctrine equips the church for times of difficulty.**

- 2 Timothy 4:3-4 (NASB) *3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, 4 and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.*
- 2 Timothy 4:3-4 (LBLA) *3 Porque vendrá tiempo cuando no soportarán la sana doctrina, sino que teniendo comezón de oídos, acumularán para sí maestros conforme a sus propios deseos; 4 y apartarán sus oídos de la verdad, y se volverán a mitos.*

- 2 Timothy 4:2- *“Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching”*
- 2 Timothy 4:2 (LBLA) *2 Predica la palabra; insiste a tiempo y fuera de tiempo; redarguye, reprende, exhorta con mucha paciencia e instrucción.*

**False doctrine weakens the future church,  
while sound doctrine strengthens the future  
church.**

- Matthew 28:20 - *“teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you”*
- *“What you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also”* 2 Timothy 2:2.

- a) False doctrine confuses truth and error,
- b) prevents godliness,
- c) promotes sin,
- d) elevates ungodly leadership,
- e) permits false teachers,
- f) removes God's blessing,
- g) debilitates the church for times of difficulty,
- h) and weakens her for the future.

# SOUND DOCTRINE

- a) distinguishes truth from error,
- b) promotes godliness,
- c) prevents sin,
- d) qualifies godly leadership,
- e) protects against false teachers,
- f) ensures God's blessing,
- g) equips the church for times of difficulty,
- h) and strengthens her for the future.