



GracePointe Baptist Church
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How Important is Sound Doctrine?

"He 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."
(Titus 1:9 ESV)

1. The **urgency** of the situation caused Jude to write. Believers were attacked on every side with false teachers and false doctrine and needed to be equipped to fight against it.

"Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints." (Jude 3 ESV)

2. The imperative here (Jude 3) is for all Christians to wage war against error in all forms and **fight for the truth**, (like a soldier who has been entrusted with a sacred task of guarding a holy treasure)

"I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints." (Jud 3b ESV)

3. "**The faith**" that God had once for all entrusted to the saints is the body of truths taught by the apostles and canonized in the Holy Bible.

"Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons," (1 Ti 4:1 ESV)

"Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses." (1 Ti 6:12 ESV)

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." (2 Ti 4:7 ESV)

4. Why were they to fight for and **guard the truth**?

"For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ." (Jud 4 ESV)



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" I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive." (Ro 16:17-18 ESV)

" As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine," (1 Ti 1:3 ESV)

"understanding 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, the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine, in accordance with the gospel of the glory of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted." (1 Ti 1:9-11 ESV)

" Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared...If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, being trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed." (1 Ti 4:1-2, 6 ESV)

"Command and teach these things...Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching...Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers." (1 Ti 4:11,13,16 ESV)

"Teach and urge these things. 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," (1 Ti 6:3 ESV)

"And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes." (Eph 4:11-14 ESV)

5. God has given the Church **Pastor/Teachers** to equip, feed, lead and protect the flock.



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" But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine." (Titus 2:1 ESV)

6. In life and ministry, **God's truth is everything!** To manipulate and distort the truth, or to mix it with error, is to invite God's eternal wrath. That's why Paul told the Galatians, "If any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!" (Gal. 1:9).

"For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth." (2 Co 13:8 ESV)

"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth." (2 Ti 2:15 ESV)

7. Jude tells us further that the faith is that which was once for all handed down to the saints. **Hapax** (once for all) refers to something that is accomplished or completed one time, with lasting results and no need of repetition. **God's truth is eternal, what has always been truth - will always be truth. No new doctrine, no new revelation apart from what has always been.**

"but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—" (Ro 16:26 ESV)

"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 competent, equipped for every good work." (2 Ti 3:16-17 ESV)

8. This truth was hidden from the **foundation of the world** and only revealed through the Apostles by the will of God. The church has the only authority and stewardship of delivering this truth until Jesus returns.

" Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory." (1 Corinthians 2:6-7 ESV)



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"and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord," (Ephesians 3:9-11 ESV)

"of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory." (Colossians 1:25-27 ESV)

9. Anyone who listens and follows people who do not hold to "faith once for all delivered" takes part in their **wicked works**.

"Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, for whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works." (2 Jn 9-11 ESV)