



QA: Why Does "Doctrine" Matter? by [John T Polk II](#)

All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.

QUESTION: Why does 'doctrine' matter?

ANSWER: Because it "mattered" to God! Holy Spirit-inspired Paul wrote:

If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed. But reject profane and old wives' fables, and exercise yourself toward godliness. For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come. (**1 Timothy 4:6-8**)

1. **Brethren's Instruction must come from** "these things," "the good doctrine" contrasted with "profane and old wives' fables." Jude wrote:

Remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ ... [which is] the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. (**Jude 1:3, 17**)

2. **Written in Words.** Humans use "words" to convey thoughts.

Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. That good thing which was committed to you, keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us. (**2 Timothy 1:13-14**)

"Sound" (healthy) words convey "sound" doctrine, to make Christians "sound." Anything else is "unsound" (unhealthy)! "Pattern" shows there is organization, intelligence, and completion to the thoughts, sentences, and expressions of "that good thing" the Holy Spirit has "committed" to us.

3. **"Nourished in the Words of Faith."** Nourishment is the spiritual education of a Christian, and it must be accurately learned. Nothing that contradicts the Bible should be taught or accepted. Made-up stories, tales, fake "news," false interpretations of God's works (astrology, "Mother Nature," gods of Creation, etc.) must be "rejected." This applies to the false doctrines of: Faith Only, Millennialism, Non-nuclear Family, Evolution, Climate Change, Transgenderism, LGBTQ Acceptance, Racism, Karl Marx Communism or Socialism, Critical Race Theory, *ad nauseum*. **Children must not be nourished with propaganda** (which is nothing but repeated lies). Since "faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (**Romans 10:17**), The faith of a Christian should only be nourished with, and based upon, "the word of God."

4. **"You Have Carefully Followed."** The word used here means to exercise extreme care in following along with this information, as in **Luke 1:3**. It does little good to have a word-for-word Holy Spirit-inspired and guided text if its doctrine and practice is loosely dealt with. God's Word does not need to be adapted to human behavior, for it should be the standard for human behavior, as Jesus Christ has shown.

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. (**Romans 12:2**)

If our "doctrine" isn't from Scripture, then it isn't from God!

--- jtpll, March 12, 2023