

Discernment – 5 - Orthodoxy & Teachers

Outline

Orthodoxy

1. Greek *orthodoxos*, from *orthodoxein* "to have the right or true opinion," derived from *orthos* "right, true" and *doxa* "opinion"
2. Conforming to what is generally or traditionally accepted as right or true; established and approved.
3. No need to reinvent the wheel:
"For all the Athenians and the foreigners who were there spent their time in nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing." (Acts 17:21)
4. The true doctrine has been established long ago.

Check against established values

1. Nothing new after 2,000 years of Christianity
2. Need for 2 or 3 witnesses 2Cor 13:1
3. Jesus calls witnesses John 5:31
4. Witnesses need to be reliable and confirm one another
5. Danger of pride in throwing off the old paths
6. Paul checked with others Gal 2:2 – "3 lights in Durban harbour"
7. Thus says the LORD: "Stand in the ways and see, And ask for the old paths, where the good way is, And walk in it; Then you will find rest for your souls. But they said, 'We will not walk in it.' Jeremiah 6:16

Not every man to himself.

1. Overreaction to Clergy / Laity system and control by the church.
2. Every man doing what is right in his own eyes. Judges 17:6
3. Pastors judged and discarded by arbitrary standards
4. "Can't find a good church" false in many cases.
5. Bereans
 - a. Checked Paul but did not formulate their own doctrine.
 - b. Checked against the Scriptures, not their own ideas.

God gave leaders to the church

1. Ephesians 4:11-14
2. "Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you." (Hebrews 13:17).
3. "And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also." (2 Timothy 2:2)

Trusted teachers

- 2 Tim. 3:14 - But you must continue ...knowing from whom you have learned...
1. There is no need to go it alone
 2. Find a reliable pastor/teacher you can trust and commit to that church
 3. Limit who you listen to – danger of heaping to yourself teachers 2Tim 4:3
 4. Beware the internet

Study Questions – Orthodoxy & Teachers

Introduction

What was the issue regarding the Athenians and the foreigners in Acts 17:16-21?

Is "new" always "true?" Is "new" always better?

Check Against Established Values

How does the truth that God's Word is old and new at the same time affect you?

How is that true?

Do you stand alone among Biblically solid believers on a doctrinal truth that you hold that has no other trusted witness? What should you do about this according to the truth taught in this session?

How do we find rest through the truth revealed in Jeremiah 6:16?

Trusted Teachers

Judges 17:6 talks about people doing what was right in their own eyes.

How can that become a Christian's own philosophy despite the Biblical commands to the contrary?

Think of the truth of 2 Timothy 3:14, is it possible to obey this if you have not submitted yourself to a local of body of believers where Biblical truth is taught?

Ephesians 4:11-14 sets the pattern for spiritual care and edification of the Body of Christ, the church. Men who teach and pastor today are provided by God to do this work so as to prepare the Church to minister and grow up in the Lord.

Does your Biblical model of "church" line up with the truth revealed here? What is the root cause of those who "heap to yourself teachers" in 2 Timothy 4:3?

Conclusion: Read Hebrews 13:17-18

Spend some time praying for godly pastors and praying for joyfully submitted church members.

What should I change in my actions and attitude as a result of this study?