

NORTHEAST HOUSTON COMMUNITY CHURCH
Sermon: No Other Gospel Part 3
The Most Essential Doctrine
Scripture Text: Hebrews 11:6
01/27/2019

“Starting an exercise program? Try walking with Jesus. “

Submitted by Sis Sherry Diggs

Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV) 6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

So far there are three main words we will probably repeat often they are; Doctrine, Heresy and Essential.

Doctrine – Is something that is taught (MW), “a set of ideas or beliefs that are taught or believed to be true.”

What is false doctrine?

Answer: False doctrine is any idea that adds to, takes away from, contradicts, or nullifies the doctrine given in God’s Word. For example, any teaching about Jesus that denies His virgin birth is a false doctrine, because it contradicts the clear teaching of Scripture.

A mature Christian seeking to know the truth will do as the Berean Christians.

Acts 17:11 (NLT) 11 And the people of Berea were more open-minded than those in Thessalonica, and they listened eagerly to Paul’s message. They searched the Scriptures day after day to see if Paul and Silas were teaching the truth.

Sometimes doctrine is presented in honest error, but may be false just the same.

The next word or topic is Heresy.

Heresy – is adherence to a religious opinion contrary to church dogma

Dogma - a doctrine or body of doctrines concerning faith or morals formally stated and authoritatively proclaimed by a church.

Dogmatic - characterized by or given to the expression of opinions very strongly or positively as if they were facts

The third word pertinent to this series is

Essential - of the utmost importance; absolutely necessary; extremely important.

Synonyms: requisite, important, all important, crucial, necessary, key, vital, indispensable, needed, required.

The most common use of the word essential is as an adjective meaning it must modify a noun. In religion, denominations and tenants of faith the term essential is used in terms of describing doctrine.

Examples of essential doctrine

- The Catholic doctrine of Mary being a preputial virgin and is a mediator between man and Christ, is essential to the Catholic faith.
- LDS base their faith on the Book of Mormon.
- JW - Jehovah's Witnesses believe that exactly 144,000 faithful Christians go to heaven as spirit creatures to rule with Christ in the kingdom of God.

Not to believe these things as essential will bring church discipline including excommunication.

NEHCC, as a body of believer would be in the category of non-denomination within the faith of Christianity. Meaning we are not part of the Baptist, Catholic, JW, Lutheran, or any other Christian Denomination. But we hold to basic Christian doctrine unequivocally supported by scripture.

Since we are not members of any of the above religions or denominations our doctrine is based on the Word of God as our program says.

I want to divide the essentials of our faith into three groups, they are:

1. The most basic essentials for our faith
2. What is essential for Salvation/eternal life.
3. What is essential for our growth in faith.

We are not talking about sports, politics or any secular category. We are focusing on our faith.

This subject does not mean the same to everyone and there are some that it does not apply to.

In preparation for this series I searched for what was said to be the most essential doctrine for the Christian faith. There were a variety of lists. One had a list of 99 essential doctrines. I am not going to go through all those nor would I ever put you through that. I have narrowed it down to what seems to be the most common ones by respected writers.

Ironically, the first one we will discuss and the one I think is the most important essential doctrine was not on any of the lists.

That essential doctrine (teaching) is the knowledge that "God is God".

The Doctrine of God "God is God"

This has to be the most basic and the most fundamental doctrine of them all. Everything emanates from God. Without God there would be nothing.

1. God is the creator of everything, (Gen 1:1-2:7).
2. The righteous judge of right and wrong (Genesis 18:25).
3. There is no other true God.

1 Samuel 2:2 (NKJV) 2 "No one is holy like the Lord, For there is none besides You, ... (Deuteronomy 4:35).

4. In short, He is the undisputed sovereign.

Deuteronomy 32:39 (NKJV) 39 'Now see that I, even I, am He, And there is no God besides Me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; Nor is there any who can deliver from My hand.

Knowing that these are essential doctrine to faith how are others to know if they do not have a bible? It reminds me of the question I heard way back in childhood about “how could people in deepest Africa know about God if they never heard or read of Him?

Answer: Romans 1:20 (NKJV) 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

God revealed himself through visible creation but man chose to worship the creation instead of the creator (*Romans 1:25*).

After coming out of Egypt, God wrote down who He was and commanded the people to teach the children. (word of mouth). I believe that is the best way to teach children and adults today. Our testimony is more powerful than we think. That’s because it’s living and personal.

I will close this first and most important essential doctrine with just two more points.

Not forgetting that doctrine is “the teaching”, when Jesus was asked what was the greatest commandment, He quoted *Deuteronomy 6:4–5*.

Deuteronomy 6:4–5 (NKJV) 4 “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! 5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

If God commands us to know or do something then that becomes that which we should live by, teach our families and others and it becomes doctrine.

I understand that much of what I said is in the Old Testament. We must understand that many of the commands of God were to reveal to man who God was and many were to help man to become righteous before God.

The most basic essential is for man to know God then man can grow in God. There is also a New Testament verse that supports this basic essential doctrine.

*Hebrews 11: 6 (NKJV) 6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God **must believe that He is**, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*

The New Testament tells us that we must believe that God is God.

There are those that say God is dead, or that God is no longer relevant, or that even God cannot put the world right.

Don’t you ever let anyone tell you that the God of the Bible is no longer relevant. It is your faith that will bolster you in assuring you **that God is still God.**

That is the most basic essential doctrine that everything else stands on.

Message Scriptures: **Hebrews 11:6**, *Acts 17:11*, Galatians 1:8, Gen 1:1-2:7, Genesis 18:25, *1 Samuel 2:2*, *Deuteronomy 4:35*, *Deuteronomy 32:39*, *Romans 1:20*, *Romans 1:25*, *Deuteronomy 6:4-5*

END