

Women's Doctrinal Series

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What is doctrine and why do we care?

- Doctrine is the whole teaching of the Bible on a given subject. It matters because right _____ (*mind*) leads to right _____ (*heart/soul*) which lead to right _____ (*strength*).
- 2 Peter 3:17-18

Assumptions:

- The Bible is:
 - _____: *The authority of Scripture means that all the words in Scripture are God's words in such a way that to disbelieve or disobey any word of Scripture is to disbelieve or disobey God. (Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology, pg. 73)*
 - _____: *The inerrancy of Scripture means that the Bible always tells the truth, and...it always tells the truth concerning everything it talks about. This definition does not mean that the Bible tells us every fact there is to know about any one subject, but it affirms that what it does say about any subject is true. (Grudem 91)*
 - _____: *The sufficiency of Scripture means that Scripture...contains all the words of God we need for salvation, for trusting him perfectly, and for obeying him perfectly. (Grudem 127)*

The Doctrine of God:

- Is God knowable?
 - We cannot know God _____. (At least while we are on this side of eternity.)
 - We can know God _____.

- What is God like?
 - The incommunicable attributes of God answer the question:

 - The communicable attributes of God answer the question:

MADE IN HIS IMAGE:

- By design, you are set apart as a special creation. An image-bearer.
 - Genesis 1:26-27
 - *In all of the created order, only humans are designed to reflect the image of God.* (Jen Wilkin, *In His Image*, pg. 152)

- The image of God in humankind was corrupted when _____ entered the world through Adam.
 - Genesis 3
 - Romans 5:12

- The image of God was restored in humankind through _____.
 - Romans 5:15-17
 - Hebrews 1:3
 - Colossians 2:9

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- By grace through faith in Him, Jesus Christ, the image of God, saves us and RE-IMAGES us through the following processes of our salvation:
 - _____
 - *Justification is an instantaneous act of God in which he (1) thinks of our sins as forgiven and Christ's righteousness as belonging to us, and (2) declares us to be righteous in his sight. (Grudem 723)*
 - Romans 5:1
 - _____
 - *Sanctification is a progressive work of God and man that makes us more and more free from sin and like Christ in our actual lives. (Grudem 746)*
 - Romans 6:12-13, 19; 2 Corinthians 3:18
 - _____
 - *Glorification is the final step in the application of redemption. It will happen when Christ returns and raises from the dead the bodies of all believers for all time who have died, and reunites them with their souls, and changes the bodies of all believers who remain alive, thereby giving all believers at the same time perfect resurrection bodies like his own. (Grudem 828)*
 - Philippians 3:20-21

RESTORING HIS IMAGE

How (by what means) is an image restored?

- A study in the process restoration: The Burgos Tapestry
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pf3usSyHVXs> 0-8:48/11:45-end
- Ephesians 2:10
For we are his workmanship (sacred art), created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (parenthesis added)

ASKING THE BETTER QUESTION

- *For the believer wanting to know God's will for her life, the first question to pose is not, "What should I do? But "Who should I be?" (Wilkin 13)*
- *For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.*
1 Peter 2:21
- *Excerpt: "A Path Narrow and Safe," (Wilkin 16-17)*
- *The more _____ I become, the more I reflect Christ who perfectly images God. (Wilkin 22)*
- *Conversion entails consecration. (Wilkin 25)*

COMMUNICABLE ATTRIBUTES:

Those attributes that God shares or "communicates" with us. (Grudem 156)

Those of God's traits that can become true of us as well. Ways God calls us to reflect His character. (Wilkin)

The Communicable Attributes of God (a brief, non-exhaustive list):

1. _____
 - *God's holiness means that he is separated from sin and devoted to seeking his own honor. (Grudem 201)*
 - *Holiness can be defined as the sum of all moral excellency, "the antithesis of all moral blemish or defilement." It carries the ideas of being set apart, sacred, separate, of possessing utter purity of character. (Wilkin 22-23)*
 - Revelation 4:8; Isaiah 6:3; Psalm 99:9
 - *An important point:*
 - Hebrews 10:10 helps us understand that in Christ, WE ARE POSITIONALLY HOLY. "We have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."
 - Even still, the Bible calls us to PRACTICAL HOLINESS.

“As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, ‘You shall be holy for I am holy.’” (1 Peter 1:14-16)

- Question for reflection: Are there activities or relationships in your present pattern of life that are hindering your growth in holiness because they make it difficult for you to be separated from sin and devoted to seeking God’s honor?

2. _____

- *God’s love means that God eternally gives of himself to others.* (Grudem 198)
- Greek words used to describe love:
 - Eros: The word used to describe romantic love. (Not used in the NT)
 - Philia: The word used to describe brotherly-sisterly love. (54 uses in the NT)
 - Storge: The word used to describe a parent’s love. (Not used in the NT)
 - Agape: The word used to describe the love of God. (259 uses in the NT)
 - Agape can be defined as *an intelligent, purposeful attitude of esteem and devotion; a selfless, purposeful, outgoing attitude that desires to do good to the one loved.* (Kenneth Wuest, *Wuest’s Word Studies in the Greek New Testament*, 3:111-113.)
 - Agape seeks the highest good.
 - The scope and nature of agape:
 - Agape is sacrificial:
 - But God shows his *agape* for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8
 - Agape is given freely:
 - But *agape* your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. Luke 6:35
 - Agape is transcendent:

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- *Agape* is patient and kind; *agape* does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. *Agape* bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. *Agape* never fails.
1 Corinthians 13:4-8
 - An important point: The love of God is ORDERED. It begins with God, returns to God, and then extends out toward people.
 - BEGINS with the Father to the Son
The Father's love for the Son before creation:
Jesus speaks to his Father of "my glory which you have given me in your love for me before the foundation of the world." John 17:24
The Father's continuing love for the Son:
"The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into his hand." John 3:35
 - RETURNS from the Son to the Father
"I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father." John 14:31
 - EXTENDS to us
"In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins." 1 John 4:10
 - As we reflect God's love, our love must follow the same order. (Otherwise, we have a disordered love, which is not love at all, but rather, idolatry.)
 - *We imitate this communicable attribute of God, first by loving God in return, and second by loving others in imitation of the way God loves them. All our obligations to God can be summarized in this: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind...You shall love your neighbor as yourself."* (Grudem 199)
 - Question for reflection: Why do you think the idea that "God is love" is so popular with the world? How do our human notions of what love is pollute the way we think about this phrase, even as believers?
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3. _____

- *God's truthfulness means that he is the true God, and that all his knowledge and words are both true and the final standard of truth. God is reliable and faithful in his words. (Grudem 195)*
- *God is truth. He is its origin and its determiner. What he defines as true is eternally true, unchangingly true...Not only does God tell the absolute truth about sin, he tells the absolute truth about grace. If we confess our sin and call upon the name of the Lord, he forgives, just as he has said...God, as the source and possessor of all knowledge, cannot be less than truthful. He defines reality because he is its origin...What God declares as good is truly good, and what God declares as bad is truly bad. (Wilkin 123-124)*
- God's will in "communicating," or sharing, this attribute of His with us is that we would:
 - Know the truth (John 8:32)
 - Walk in the truth (3 John 1:4)
 - Speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15)
 - Be sanctified (set apart) in truth (John 17:17)
 - Rejoice in the truth (1 Corinthians 13:6)
 - Rightly handle the truth (2 Timothy 2:15)
 - Obey the truth (1 Peter 1:22)
- Behold, you desire truth in the inmost parts, And in the hidden part you will make me to know wisdom. Psalm 51:6
- Questions for reflection:
 - Is it possible for me to, as our culture coins the phrase, "live my truth"?
 - Which of the above aspects of sharing God's truthfulness do you need to ask Him to help you grow in as you reflect His character?

HYMNS

Holy Holy Holy

Holy, holy, holy
Lord, God Almighty
Early in the morning our song shall rise to
Thee

Only Thou art holy;
There is none beside Thee
Perfect in power, in love, and purity

The Love of God

The love of God is greater far
Than tongue or pen can ever tell
It goes beyond the highest star
And reaches to the lowest hell

O love of God, how rich and pure!
How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure
The saints' and angels' song

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

O Love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
That in thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Great is Thy faithfulness
O God my Father
There is no shadow of turning with Thee
Thou changest not
Thy compassions they fail not
As Thou hast been
Thou forever will be

Great is Thy faithfulness
Great is Thy faithfulness
Morning by morning new mercies I see
And all I have needed Thy hand hath
provided
Great is Thy faithfulness
Lord unto me

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

And though this world, with devils filled,
should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed His
truth to triumph through us;

The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble
not for him;
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom
is sure,
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly pow'rs,
No thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through
Him Who with us sideth;

Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life
also;
The body they may kill: God's truth
abideth still,
His kingdom is forever