

Why are You a Christian?

Assorted Scriptures

Our faith has both content and direction. There are things we believe and that content has consequences on the believer's life. The nature of our faith is not like that of a club, group, or some subscribed organization. The nature of our faith has both present and eternal ramifications.

If there is ambiguity of what you believe, then there are consequences.

Col. 1:21-23; Phil. 1:6; Gal. 1:6-9

Loss and Distortion of the Truth Happen within the Church

Silence

Rom. 10:17;

Gal. 3:2

Haphazard Unintentionality

Rom. 16:17;

2 Tim. 3:14-15

1 John 2:24

The Essentials

These are foundational to who we are as Christian. You need to know these *Essentials* and understand how they come to bear in your life and walk with God. (*see back for a list*)

Outside of them we are subject to introduction and consequences of false teachings.

1 Tim. 1:3

1 Tim. 4:1

1 Tim. 6:20

2 Tim. 3:1-8; 14,15

List of Essentials

The Unity of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit in the Godhead – the doctrine of the Trinity.

The Sovereignty of God in- Creation, Revelation, Redemption and Final Judgment. He alone is the Creator. We can know Him only because He has revealed Himself, He alone has provided the means of our redemption, He Himself will judge all creation.

The Divine Inspiration of Scripture – Its infallibility as originally given, Its sole authority and complete sufficiency in all matters of faith and conduct.

The Universal Sinfulness and Guilt of Human nature since the fall – in this we are rendered subject to God's wrath and condemnation.

Redemption from the Guilt, Penalty and Power of Sin – only through the sacrificial death as our representative and substitute of Jesus Christ the incarnate Son of God. The doctrine of the substitutionary atonement. He died in our place. We can only make sense of His self-sacrificial love when we understand what He was doing. He bore in Himself all that we deserved.

The Resurrection of Jesus from the dead – This is not a resurrection in the minds of people, not a resurrection in the spirits of the Apostles or some symbolic picture of new life. This was a literal, physical resurrection from the dead.

The Necessity of the work of the Holy Spirit – to make the death of Jesus effective to the individual sinner, granting them repentance towards God and faith in Jesus Christ. And the Indwelling work of the Holy Spirit in the believer.

The Holy One Universal Church – which is the Body of Christ and to which all true believers belong.

The Expectation of the Personal Return of the Lord Jesus Christ – in power and glory.