

1 Timothy 5:17; 2 Timothy 2:15; John 1:1
Minor Differences. Massive Implications!
(pt. 10)

July 28, 2024

“Minor” differences or errors can have massive implications/consequences. Provide examples of this.

Based on 1 Tim. 5:17-18; 2 Tim. 2:15/4:1-5; John 21:15b, 16b, 17b
LCBC’s Sr. Pastor has two chief duties:

1) _____.

2) _____.

To help apply God's Word to your daily walk, spend some time going over the devotional on pp 3-4.

For Further Reflection: *Lord help us to be doers of the Word and not just sermon connoisseurs*

How did the Scriptures and today's sermon encourage, challenge, and/or convict you? What do you want to study further as a result of the message?

Read 2 Corinthians 11:1-15. 2 Timothy 2:15; 3:16-4:5; 1 Timothy 5:17

"Minor" differences can have massive implications, just as minor errors sometimes have massive consequences. Provide some non-theological examples of this. What was the main example from church history used in today's message to underscore this point? What doctrine(s) were under attack during Athanasius' time? What is Arianism? Why do ancient heresies and unbiblical teachings (hyper-grace sanctification) come back (often with new names/titles)? Note 2 Corinthians 11:1-15; Galatians 1).

How does 1 Timothy 5:17-18, 2 Timothy 2:15, and 2 Timothy 4:1-5 establish specific biblical expectations for our Sr. Pastor? How does Titus 1:9-11; Colossians 1:28-29; and Ephesians 4:11-16 apply to all of our elders and pastors? How does it relate to our sheep/flock?

Sound biblical interpretation and exegetical precision is the foundation of peaching that builds up God's people and that honors ultimate Author of Scripture. How so?

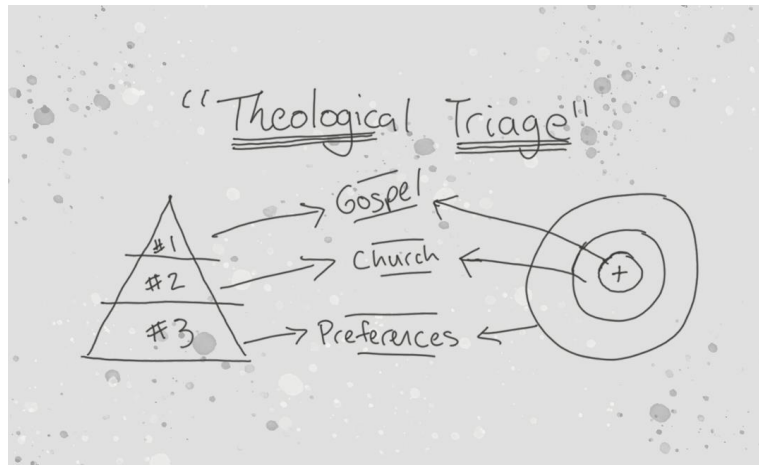
What is a simple definition/explanation of theological triage? Theological Triage: 1) *Primary* biblical truths; 2) *Secondary* church doctrinal distinctives; and 3) *Tertiary* matters. If properly applied, how can it help protect a local church? How can it foster unity in the truth? How can it be abused or misapplied?

When interviewing the next Sr. Pastor why did the search team, Pastor Sal, and elder team, devote so much attention to prospective candidate's theological beliefs/convictions? To one's philosophy of ministry? (Col 1:28-29; Eph. 4:11-16; Matt. 28:18-20)? To one's pulpit ministry and study habits (2 Tim. 2:15; 2 Tim. 3:16-4:5; Titus 1:9-11)? To one's marriage? To one's spiritual leadership within the home? To one's personal spiritual disciplines/habits of grace (prayer, etc)?

How do the following guiding principles help us apply this concept in a God-honoring manner?

8 Guiding Principles to Help us Apply Theological Triage

- 1) Be wise! Understand the difference between primary and secondary doctrines.
- 2) Be humble! Don't throw the Christian baby out with the bath water; (or die on the wrong hill)!
- 3) Be discerning! Swallow the biblical meat and spit out the fatty gristle and bones.
- 4) Beware! While all errors are bad, certain errors are far more harmful/dangerous.
- 5) Be balanced! Just because *no one* has perfect theology this side of eternity, does *not* excuse biblical illiteracy, laziness in sanctification, or indifference towards unbiblical teaching!
- 6) Be diligent! We (especially pastors and teachers) need to *work hard* and be *very careful* when interpreting and applying the perfect Word of Truth! (2 Tim. 2:15; Ezra 7:10; Joshua 1:8; James 1:21-25)
- 7) Be prayerful! Church Leaders must wisely determine to *what degree* interpretive or applicational error harms the unity, mission, and/or testimony of their flock. (*1 Cor. 11:1-16; 1 Tim. 2:9-3:1-2; Heb. 13:17*)
- 8) Be careful! Secondary errors can lead to major errors and even outright heresies. (note 7/21 sermon)



Christians must agree not to disagree on primary doctrines. Explain. When it comes to primary, first tier, essential biblical truths (note 1 Cor. 15:3-4), what beliefs do all Christians share? See Acts 16:31; 17:30-32; John 3:16; 36; 20:31; Rom. 10:9f, etc. See also 1 John 1:6-2:3; 2:21-23.

What are some the secondary doctrinal distinctives of Lake Country Bible Church?

Since no two believers agree on every single secondary doctrine, how do you maintain unity while not compromising truth? How does LCBC handle different personal convictions within our growing body of believers? We have a diverse flock with brand new Christians; mature saints; and those in between. We have members who have been well taught, as well as some wonderful new members, who come from churches where they were malnourished and fed milk/not meat (Heb. 5:12-14). Additionally, quite a few LCBC'ers have different theological upbringings. Must one understand and believe everything that is taught from the pulpit in order to become a member of this church? (No) What percentage of doctrinal agreement is needed to join here? Serve here? Become a deacon; a lay elder; or a pastor here? When is it appropriate to simply "agree to disagree" and go separate ways? Finally, when is it necessary to discipline someone who's promoting different beliefs and therein creating waves of dissension within a united church?

All errors have consequences, not all error however is heresy! List some examples of unbiblical teaching that is not heresy? What are some false teachings promoted by various false religions or by a true cult?

One author noted, Wisely "handled, theological triage does not justify indifference to doctrines below the first tier. All Scripture carries God's breath (2 Timothy 3:16), and so, when Jesus prayed that we would be sanctified "in the truth," he meant all of it — every iota (Matt. 5:18). Nevertheless, Scripture itself treats some doctrines as more foundational than others, and theological triage seeks to follow suit. As Jesus spoke of "weightier matters of the law" (Matt 23:23), and as Paul spoke of the gospel as "of first importance" (1 Cor. 15:3), so theological triage seeks to differentiate the weightiest, most important doctrines. (ER doctors treat gunshot wounds differently from sprained ankles.)The main benefit is balance and wisdom in our pursuit of unity. We don't minimize mountains, and we don't magnify molehills."

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