

What Membership Means to Us, Part II: United by a Common Confession of Faith

1. The _____ of Holding to Sound Doctrine: ‘Why not just believe the gospel and not bother about anything else?’

- We must train the church in ____ of Christ’s _____. –Matt 28:20
- We must _____ to be one-minded and in full accord. –Phil 2:1-4
- We must _____ for the faith ‘once for all delivered’. –Jude 1:3
- Elders must _____ sound doctrine and _____ those who contradict it. –Titus 1:9; 1 Tim 4:1-6, 13-16; 5:17; 6:3-5; 2 Tim 4:1-4

2. The _____ of Formulating Sound Doctrine: ‘Is it going beyond what is written to form doctrinal statements?’

- 5 _____ sayings. –1 Tim 1:15; 3:1; 4:8-9; 2 Tim 2:11-12; Tit 3:4-8
- Other _____ of doctrine. –Eph 5:14; Col 1:15-20; 1 Tim 3:16

3. The _____ of Written Sound Doctrine: ‘What actual authority does a doctrinal statement hold?’

- Extra-biblical writings have no _____ authority. –Mk 7:7
- The first Church Council wrote: “It _____ to us.” –Acts 15:22ff
- It is our common _____ of agreed upon Biblical truth. –2 Tim 2:2

4. The _____ of Particular Sound Doctrine: ‘How does one determine what to include in a doctrinal statement?’

- _____ : each local church must determine this. –Rom 6:17
- _____ : formulated in response to error. –1 John 4:1-3
- _____ : to clarify between good and evil. –1 Tim 1:9-10
- _____ : truths that are fundamental. –Gal 1:9; 1 Cor 15:3
- _____ : some differences prove to be more challenging for peaceful co-existence within a body. –Phil 2:15-16; 1 Cor 11:2, 16

1 Timothy 1:15

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.

1 Timothy 3:1

The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task.

1 Timothy 4:8-9

for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. ⁹The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance.

2 Timothy 2:11-12

The saying is trustworthy, for:

If we have died with him, we will also live with him;
¹² if we endure, we will also reign with him;
if we deny him, he also will deny us;

Titus 3:4-8

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. ⁸ The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things...