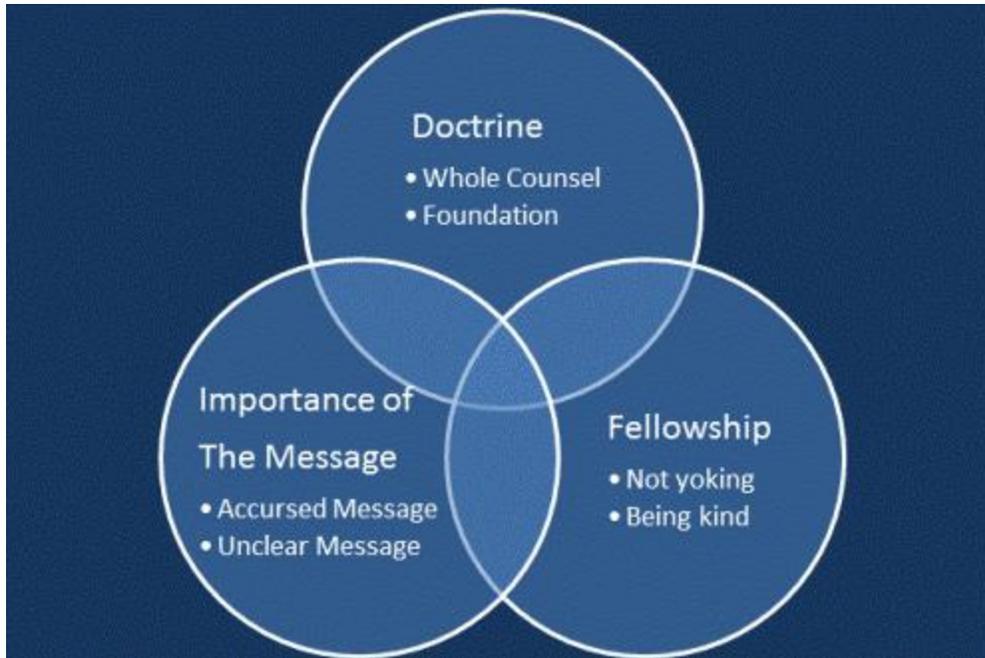


Lesson 29: 20th Century Protestantism

Lesson Introduction



In this lesson we will take a look at some of the core issues surrounding the 20th Century Protestant Church. Many of these issues, such as fellowship, may appear harmless on the surface, but it is important that we understand what the Bible has to say.

Doctrine is a very simple word that can sound

intimidating at first. It simply means “teaching.” It is important that we have doctrine, or teaching, that lines up with the Word of God.

The Apostle Paul warned that there would come a time when people would not be able to endure sound doctrine (2 Timothy 4:3). That time is upon us, and it becomes more and more evident every day.

We will see from Scripture why it is so important that our doctrine line up with what God has declared in His Word.

Lesson 29 Outline

Topic 1: Importance of Sound Doctrine

The Church is Under Attack

Topic 2: Fellowship

Don't Be Unequally Yoked

Idolatry in the Church

Topic 3: The Christians Response

Importance of the Message

Redefining Truth

Topic 1: Importance of Sound Doctrine

You know if you look at church history in the 16th century we had the Reformation, an effort to maintain pure doctrine which was not given out. We go into the medieval, in the darkness, and people did not understand the word of God, all of a sudden there were men like Martin Luther, John Calvin, John Wesley, men that believed you had to be born again, men that believed salvation was without works. They were bold servants of the Lord who helped in leading the church. However the doctrines taught by many of the denominations are not necessarily the doctrines that are taught today by the denominations. The doctrines are not the same today. What do the churches teach? They say well we just praise God, we don't have doctrine. Why is doctrine important? Do you know why doctrines important? Because you get the whole counsel of God. You get all of it. You can't just get part of it, not all of it, you have to get it all. And that's what guides us and leads us and gives us the knowledge that God wants us to have, and he has. Now you know we're not going to label every single church, say every one of them is bad, that's not what we are trying to do here tonight, but if you desire to be a soul winner, and I believe most of you want to be a soul winner, you've got to be able to understand how to reach the 20th century Protestant. It's not trying to knock and downgrade people, I'll be nice to anyone. You don't mistreat people. All people have a right to be respected and treated nicely, but that doesn't mean we're going to have a joint service. Do you see the difference?

QUESTION 1

We have gone from a time when pure doctrine was suppressed, then taught freely to the people, and then now is unclear. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

QUESTION 2

Doctrine is not important as long as you have the 'main' teachings correct. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

QUESTION 3

When dealing with a group that does not have sound doctrine, we should not: *(Select all that apply.)*

Answer: _____

- A. Degrade them
- B. Love them
- C. Mistreat them
- D. Have a joint service with them

The Church Is Under Attack

Now remember there are all kinds of degrees of churches. There's some that are totally liberal, in the Methodist Church, every church in the Methodist Church is not liberal, most of whom are liberal but there are some that aren't liberal. Liberal means they don't believe the Bible, that means they don't believe Jesus was virgin born. But they're not all that way, although the vast majority, and let me say vast majority is that way. I can speak because I know. You have some Lutherans that are very fundamental, you have others that are liberal. You got to understand that. Paul in his farewell address to the Ephesians Church, and if you'll look at your verses, he said, "I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God, take heed therefore unto yourselves and to all the flock over which the Holy Ghost has made you overseers, to feed the church of God which is purchased with his own blood." In Acts 20:29, it says "For I know this, that after my departure shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock..." You

know sometimes people don't realize that Satan really does want to upset the local church. That's why we have to protect the church the way we do. You have to be a shepherd to protect the church. The church is under attack. We don't like to say that, we don't like to say that but it is true. You know he mentions their duty to feed the flock and to warn the flock. But sometimes we don't want to do that. Wolves will come in. We are to teach against false doctrine, that is why it is so critical that we go through the Bible. The apostle Peter spoke of the danger of false doctrine taught by false teachers, and I think it is very important that we see this. If you will look at Second Peter 2:1, "But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you who privately shall bring in damnable heresies even denying the Lord that bought them and bringing upon them swift destruction."

QUESTION 4

Only the major denominations have liberal churches. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

QUESTION 5

It takes a real _____ to protect the church.

- A. Preacher
- B. Management expert
- C. Shepherd
- D. Leader

QUESTION 6

The shepherd is to protect the flock from: *(Select all that apply.)*

Answer: _____

- A. Denominations
- B. Wolves
- C. False Doctrine
- D. False Teachers

Topic 2: Fellowship

Now let me say this, one thing that most people agree that you don't do anything with liberals. "Many shall follow their pernicious ways by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of." In second Peter 2:2 and Second Peter 2:3, "And through covetousness into the vain words make merchandise of you, whose judgment now a longtime lingereth, and the damnation slumbereth not." You know Paul warned them very clearly, as clear as he could make it, he says, "Now I beseech you brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which we have learned, and avoid them." It doesn't say be mean to them, it doesn't say spit on them, but he says to mark them and avoid them. If someone is teaching a false doctrine, we don't want to have anything to do with them. We want to have the whole doctrine. How do you know if they are teaching false doctrine? Well first of all they will be off on grace and works. Secondly, you will be able to see a lot of other things. It's something we've got to be very warned about.

Assignment:

Memorize Romans 16:17

QUESTION 7

According to Romans 16:17, what are we to do with those who do not have sound doctrine? (*Select all that apply.*) Answer: _____

- A. Pray with them.
- B. Mark them.
- C. Judge them.
- D. Avoid them.

QUESTION 8

What things should we not do with liberals? (*Select all that apply.*)

Answer: _____

- A. Hate them.
- B. Be mean to them publicly.
- C. Have prayer meetings with them.
- D. Pray for them.

QUESTION 9

What is usually the first way to tell is someone is teaching a false doctrine?

Answer: _____

- A. They will be quick to tell you.
- B. They will be off on grace.
- C. Examine their Doctrinal Statement.
- D. Talk to the people they teach.

Don't Be Unequally Yoked

I don't think a person should accept sponsorship where people of churches that don't teach the doctrine we believe, I don't believe you should take sponsorship from liberal churches. Never have believed it, never will believe it. I don't believe it. Now what if you had a chance to win them to Christ? Oh man I would love to do it. What if you had a chance to speak and tell them about Jesus with no strings attached? I don't think it would be wrong, but it would be wrong once you take a league or hook up or have any contact in the sense that you are under their power. We have to be very careful. We have to be very careful. God will take care of our financial needs. We don't have to compromise and go to the Liberals to have our financial needs met. Now we have to be in a position where we say I am going to do it the right way or I am not going to do it. I'm just not going to have it happen. I hope you understand that that doesn't mean that you ought to be mean to people, we're not talking about being mean to people. Second Corinthians 6:14, 15, and 16, "Be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers..." okay dear people, that means marriage, that means church, that means business. Now you say wait a minute wait a minute, I have to work with people who are unsaved. That is not yoked, yoked is when you become joined with them in a yoke. This is talking about oxen being yoked together. You cannot get your self yoked together, yes you will be running with them, but don't be unequally yoked. "For what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness, and what communion hath light with darkness..." You just can't do it. You see working for a person is not being yoked to that person. "... And what concord hath Christ with Belial? Or what part he that believeth with an infidel?" Now let's say, I am down there with Brother Schneller, we are in a meeting and there's a rabbi and a priest and us, I'm not going to say, oh you get out of here, I can't be in

the same room with you. That's not what it's saying. It is saying don't yoke, don't yoke up. Just don't do it, it's not what God wants you to do.

Assignment:

Memorize 2 Corinthians 6:14-15

QUESTION 10

If it appears our financial needs are not being met, it is ok to accept sponsorship from a liberal. *True or False?* Answer: _____

QUESTION 11

Being "unequally yoked" can mean: *(Select all that apply.)*

Answer: _____

- A. Witnessing to a liberal
- B. Marriage
- C. Being employed by a liberal
- D. Business partnerships
- E. Being in a meeting together
- F. Church

QUESTION 12

We should not want to be in the same room as someone of a different faith. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

Idolatry in the Church

You know, people go to a church service and they'll say, why wasn't he wonderful? Oh he may have been messed up on salvation, he didn't have the invitation, he didn't try to get anybody saved, he quoted many famous men, he spoke with words so large you couldn't understand them, but boy didn't he speak wonderful? The people may have been taken by his sincerity and spiritual tones and vivid illustrations and sentimental stories, but they never saw whether the message was true or not. Second Corinthians 6: 16, "What agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God, and God has said I will dwell in them, and walk with them, I will be their God and they shall be my people." God does not want us to have anything to do with idols. You know I know that when you go over to Israel, and you know that no synagogue will ever have a face of a man in it. You know in verse 17 it says, "Wherefore come out from among them and be ye separate saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing and I will receive you." Don't stay in a liberal church, don't stay in a church that has idols. Don't stay in the church that is liberal. God says it is unclean.

Assignment:

Memorize 2 Corinthians 6:16-17

QUESTION 13

The following are sometimes marks of a liberal message: *(Select all that apply.)*

Answer: _____

- A. Unclear Gospel
- B. Lack of an invitation
- C. Quotes from men as opposed to the Bible
- D. Spiritual tones
- E. Salvation by grace through faith

QUESTION 14

It is vital for us to have a message that is clear for people to understand. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

QUESTION 15

It is ok to stay in a liberal church to try and change them. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

Topic 3: Our Response to the Liberal Church

Now what are we supposed to do? Second Timothy 2:15 says, "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." Look at Second Timothy 3:16, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,..." all Scripture, a lot of the 20th century Protestants today, they're not out and out liberals. They say the Bible contains the word of God. No sir, the Bible more than contains it, the Bible is the Word of God. You see we are to compare Scripture with Scripture. Second Peter 1:20 says, "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation..." that is another reason I believe with my whole heart that we are to take this Bible and study the whole Bible. I believe you ought to read through your Bible it a systematic way. No prophecy is a private interpretation. That is why we need to study the whole Bible. But some say well they don't quite preach the whole gospel. Some of them say what you do pastor when sometimes they preach the Gospel and sometimes they don't preach the gospel? Well that is true sometimes that happens doesn't it? Well I want you to remember this, the wheat and the tares are going to grow together. When they are preaching a false gospel, you cannot be yoked together.

QUESTION 16

A cursory reading of God's Word will enable us to maintain a clear message. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

QUESTION 17

We must study the whole Bible, not just the easy parts. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

QUESTION 19

The best way to study the Bible is ask God to help you open to where He wants you to read. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

Importance of the Message

Well I'll tell you how important the gospel is to Christ, look in Galatians 1:8, and 1:9, don't ever forget it is in the Bible, "But though we or an angel from heaven preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed." There is only one gospel, and that is the gospel of Jesus Christ paid on Calvary, if he paid all we don't have to pay any of it. Now I want you to understand that there is a difference in an unclear message and an accursed message. If some preacher says take Jesus in your heart, that is not an accursed message, it is an unclear message. It is not a good message but is not an accursed message. It is better to be clear. Now I don't mind saying believe with your heart, but I don't want people to be misled to think that Jesus comes into your heart. The heart, that's not an accursed message, and I want you to know the difference. Now an accursed message is that gentleman, I'm not going to say his name right now, he goes around the country saying that you can't really know that you've ever been born again and if you don't live that you are not saved. That is accursed. I will say it, it is John MacArthur. That's accursed. You'll have another one, he's just not always clear, but he's not accursed. But when you say salvation is not by grace and it's my works you have a problem. Galatians 1:9 "As we said before so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have received let him be accursed." And I want you to understand that God does the cursing not us. It is very important that we be able to see that, and that we understand that, that we be able to understand what the Bible really has to say, and how important it really is.

QUESTION 20

The message we must have is Jesus paid it all on Calvary, and if He paid it all we don't have to. *True or False?* Answer: _____

QUESTION 21

There is no difference in an unclear message and an accursed message. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

QUESTION 22

Which of the following are examples of an unclear message? *(Select all that apply.)*

Answer: _____

- A. Take Jesus in your heart.
- B. Give your heart to Jesus.
- C. Pray through.
- D. Choose Jesus.
- E. Make Jesus Lord of your life.
- F. If you are saved you will serve.

Redefining Truth

You know they want to change the Bible around. Dr. Woodbridge, and he was one of the literal scholars, a Cambridge graduate, highest in his class, and he said this, he was talking about the new theology, "How can you redefine holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost? Would you say holy means unholy? Man means women? We believe the Bible for what it says, there is no middle ground, you either believe it or you don't believe it." You know we are always going to believe the Bible for what it says. Let's look at First Corinthians 4:2, "Moreover it is required and stewards that a man be found faithful." Proverbs 16:25, "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." "Whatsoever a man soweth and that shall he also reap." Some people have little cute sayings, that they follow the pastor not the master, you can do that, but I tell you one thing you will never follow the master without following the pastor because that is God's way. Boy some people don't like to hear that anymore. False doctrine is something we have to avoid, but God is going to have to determine who the wheat and the tares are. God doesn't want denominations, God doesn't want bishops over the churches. He wants every church to be independent, and that is what you see in the Bible. Paul you know it says, churches of Ephesus, churches in Galatia, you know all these different churches he would greet them and salutes them and he would go speak to them and send them letters and he helped them, but he had no power over them in the sense, he had power over them in the sense that they willingly gave him power, there was no signed document that he was the one that had total power. In these denominational churches, do you know who owns the building? The denomination owns the building. Do you know who owns the parsonage? The denomination owns the parsonage. And it's not God's way, never has been never will be. God's way is the local church.

QUESTION 23

"We believe the Bible for what it says, there is no middle ground. You either believe it or you don't believe it." *True or False?*

Answer: _____

QUESTION 24

God's plan was for there to be denominations and bishops over the churches. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

QUESTION 25

God's way is the local church. *True or False?* Answer: _____

LESSON 29 ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

QUESTION 1: True [The doctrines taught by many of the denominations then are not taught now.]

QUESTION 2: False [It is important to get the whole counsel of God.]

QUESTION 3

- A. Degrade them
- C. Mistreat them
- D. Have a joint service with them

QUESTION 4: False [You can find liberal churches in every group.]

QUESTION 5

- C. Shepherd

QUESTION 6

- B. Wolves
- C. False Doctrine
- D. False Teachers

QUESTION 7

- B. Mark them.
- D. Avoid them.

QUESTION 8

- A. Hate them.
- B. Be mean to them publicly.
- C. Have prayer meetings with them.

QUESTION 9

- B. They will be off on grace.

QUESTION 10: False [God will take care of your needs; you don't need to compromise.]

QUESTION 11

- B. Marriage
- D. Business partnerships
- F. Church

QUESTION 12: False [We just don't want to "yoke up" with them.]

QUESTION 13

- A. Unclear Gospel
- B. Lack of an invitation
- C. Quotes from men as opposed to the Bible
- D. Spiritual tones

QUESTION 14: True [Some messages sound good, but you can't tell if they are true or not.]

QUESTION 15: False [God calls us to come out and be separate.]

QUESTION 16: False [We must "study to show (ourselves) approved unto God..."]

QUESTION 17: True ["All Scripture...is profitable." 2 Timothy 3:16]

QUESTION 19: False [You should study through the Bible in a systematic way.]

QUESTION 20: True [It was important enough for Jesus to die for, it should be important to us.]

QUESTION 21: False

QUESTION 22

- A. Take Jesus in your heart.
- B. Give your heart to Jesus.
- C. Pray through.
- D. Choose Jesus.

QUESTION 23: True

QUESTION 24: False [He wants every church to be independent.]

QUESTION 25: True [This is what we see in the New Testament.]