

THINGS THAT WEAKEN SOUND TEACHING

The weakening of sound doctrine has been the downfall of man from the beginning - Gen 3:1-6 - Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" 2 The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, 3 but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" 4 "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. 5 "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

1. **Questions & Challenges the Word**
2. **Gives distorted reason for the Word, with excuse to ignore it**
3. **We become emboldened to make decisions on the Word using sight NOT Faith**

As a result, in the world today, the walk is not matching the doctrine:

- **The worship** – There are different forms of worship, with different rules, based on the worshiper not on God. Unfortunately, man is worshiping his way.
- **Marriage** – Not only has the criteria for marriages changed, the sacredness of the union, the roles in the marriage, & the true meaning of marriage are completely ignored and changed.
- **The Bible** – The sacred Spiritual guide book of God's Word has become optional and is commonly used to support human ideas. It's commonly mixed with other doctrines.
- **Life** – Life has become confusing with many losing faith in God. some distort their walk, others just fall away. This is mainly because man has distorted what it means to have Faith in God. We have allowed our sight to dictate our Faith.

It must be the complete unadulterated Word - Titus 2:1 - You **MUST TEACH** what is in accord with sound doctrine.

God revealed to us of the inviting & accepting of false teachers and teachings- 2 Tim 4:3-5 - 3 For the time **WILL COME** when men will not put up with **SOUND DOCTRINE**. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers **to say what their itching ears want to hear**. 4 They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. 5 But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

It's disturbing how we can so easily be misled - 2 Cor 11:2-4 - 2 I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him. 3 But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, **your minds** may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. 4 For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, **YOU PUT UP WITH IT EASILY ENOUGH**.

*****UNDERSTAND***** – "The reason there are so many variations of Christianity—and why many may stray from alignment with God—is that we have inadvertently replaced True Spirituality with one or more of the following: **IGNORANCE, EMOTIONS, INTELLECT, & CULTURE**. These are God-given attributes essential to life, yet when they are not grounded in Him, they can become harmful—even fatal."

Ignorance (inexcusable) - lack of knowledge or understanding

1 Peter 1:14-16 - 14 As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. 15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; 16 for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

Most ignorance is due to men hardening their hearts - Eph 4:17-19 - 17 So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. 18 They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the **ignorance that is in them DUE TO THE HARDENING OF THEIR HEARTS**. 19 Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.

Unfortunately, Ignorance is bliss - Eccl 1:18 For with much wisdom comes much sorrow; the more knowledge, the **more grief**.

***There are times ignorance is part of God's will** - Deut 29:29 The **secret things belong to the Lord our God**, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law.

Ignorance at times is due to only getting half the story - Matt 4:5-7 - 5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. 6 "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: 'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" 7 Jesus answered him, "**IT IS ALSO WRITTEN: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'**"

Those who reject understanding are considered fools- Prov 18:2 A fool finds no pleasure in understanding but delights in airing his own opinions.

When we don't live being alert, we can be infected by ignorance of false teaching and it will spread - Gal 5:7-9 - 7 You were running a good race. Who cut in on you and kept you from obeying the truth? 8 That kind of persuasion does not come from the one who calls you. 9 "A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough.

The Word we receive is precious and must be treated as precious - 2 Tim 1:13-14 - 13 What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with FAITH and LOVE in Christ Jesus. 14 Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you — guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

The unspiritual are automatically ignorant - 1 Cor 2:14 The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are FOLISHNESS TO HIM, and he CANNOT understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Ignorance is a dangerous choice - Hos 4:6 my people are destroyed from lack of knowledge. "BECAUSE YOU HAVE REJECTED KNOWLEDGE, I also reject you as my priests; BECAUSE YOU HAVE IGNORED THE LAW OF YOUR GOD, I also will ignore your children.

It is our responsibility to assess what we are being taught –

1 John 4:1-3 - Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 **THIS IS HOW YOU CAN RECOGNIZE THE SPIRIT OF GOD:** Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 3 but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

1 Thess 5:21-22 - 21 Test EVERYTHING. Hold on to the good. 22 **Avoid** every kind of evil.

Emotion (most dangerous) - a triggered feeling about somebody or something

Gal 5:16-17 - 16 So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify THE DESIRES OF THE SINFUL NATURE. 17 For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.

All of us are walking emotional battlefields - Matt 26:41 "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak."

Everyone has dangerous feelings, including Jesus - Matt 26:36-38 - 36 Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." 37 He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. 38 Then he said to them, "**My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death.** Stay here and keep watch with me."

Emotions come from you and are based on you - Rom 8:5-8 - 5 Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. 6 The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; 7 the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. 8 Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.

*(We must choose what are minds are set on - Col 3:2-4 (we will see later))

Our emotions are the true source of sin - James 1:13-15 - 13 **When tempted,** no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; 14 but each one is tempted* when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. 15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

*Tempted when we are driven by what we want INSTEAD of what God says.

***Emotions are great as long as you are in control instead of your emotions being in control** - Gal 4:16-18 - 16 Have I now become your enemy by telling you the truth? 17 Those people are zealous to win you over, but for no good. What they want is to alienate you [from us], so that you may be zealous for them. 18 **IT IS FINE TO BE ZEALOUS, PROVIDED THE PURPOSE IS GOOD, AND TO BE SO ALWAYS** and not just when I am with you.

Emotions not monitored will be the source of our corruption - 2 Peter 1:3-4 - 3 His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. 4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

Uncontrolled emotions weaken the power of the Word in our lives - Matt 13:22 As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches **CHOKES THE WORD, AND IT PROVES UNFRUITFUL.** ESV

God has allowed uncertainty in life in order to reveal if we are leaning upon emotion or Faith - Matt 6:25-33 - 25 "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not **LIFE MORE IMPORTANT THAN FOOD, AND THE BODY MORE IMPORTANT THAN CLOTHES?** 26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? 27 Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? 28 "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. 29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. 30 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? 31 So **do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'** 32 **For the PAGANS run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.** 33 But **SEEK FIRST HIS KINGDOM AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS,** and all these things will be given to you as well.

Faith, not emotions, will allow us to live completely committed to the Lord - 1 Cor 7:29-35 - 29 What I mean, brothers, is that the time is short. From now on those who have wives should live as if they had none; 30 those who mourn, as if they did not; those who are happy, as if they were not; those who buy something, as if it were not theirs to keep; 31 those who use the things of the world, as if not engrossed in them. For **this world in its present form is passing away**. 32 I would like you to be **free from concern**. An unmarried man is concerned about the Lord's affairs — how he can please the Lord. 33 But a married man is concerned about the affairs of this world — how he can please his wife— 34 and his interests are divided. An unmarried woman or virgin is concerned about the Lord's affairs: Her aim is to be devoted to the Lord in both body and spirit. But a married woman is concerned about the affairs of this world — how she can please her husband. 35 I am saying this for your own good, not to restrict you, but **that you may live in a right way in undivided devotion to the Lord**.

Any emotional attachment to the world separates us from God - James 4:4 You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

(This includes: Pride, politics, selfish ambition & allegiance to anything other than God...)

We must focus all emotion towards Christ - Phil 3:7-11 - 7 But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. 8 What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ — **the righteousness that COMES FROM GOD and is BY FAITH**. 10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

God has given the remedy to resolve “out of control” emotions - Phil 4:6-7 - **DO NOT BE ANXIOUS ABOUT ANYTHING**, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, **present your requests to God**. 7 And THE PEACE OF GOD, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Be in control despite the emotion - 1 Thess 5:16-18 -16 Be joyful ALWAYS; 17 pray continually; 18 give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Remember it's spiritual, so deal with it Spiritually, not emotionally - 2 Cor 10:3-6 - 3 For **though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does**. 4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. 5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. 6 And we will be ready to punish every act of disobedience, once your obedience is complete.

- Destroy anything that distorts your relationship with God
- Recognize your thoughts and deal with them don't let them deal with you
- Punish every act of disobedience immediately

We should never base things on how we feel, because our feelings are tainted - Rom 7:18-20 - 18 I know that **nothing good lives in me**, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. 19 For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do — this I keep on doing. 20 Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

Like Jesus, we must recognize the difference between the “ME emotions” and HIS will - Luke 22:42-43 - 42 "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet **NOT MY WILL, but yours be done**." 43 An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him.

Intelligence (most deceptive) - the ability to learn facts and skills and apply them, especially when this ability is highly developed 1 Cor 1:18-21 - 18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate." 20 Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the **FOOLISHNESS OF WHAT WAS PREACHED** to save those who believe.

Worldly intelligence is not one of attributes God looks for in us - 1 Cor 1:26-31 - 26 Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose the foolish things OF THE WORLD to shame the wise; God chose the weak things OF THE WORLD to shame the strong. 28 He chose the lowly things OF THIS WORLD and the despised things — and the things that are not — to nullify the things that are, 29 **so that no one may boast before him**. 30 **It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus**, who has become for us wisdom from God — that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. 31 Therefore, as it is written: "**LET HIM WHO BOASTS BOAST IN THE LORD**."

There will be those that teach God's Word with things added to it - 2 John 9 Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.

Worldly wisdom tries to impress, while Godly wisdom is edification from God - 2 Cor 1:12-13 - 12 Now **this is our boast**: Our conscience testifies that we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially in our relations with you, in the holiness and sincerity that are from God. We have done so **not according to worldly wisdom** but according to God's grace. 13 For we do not write you anything you cannot read or understand.

***God gave us intelligence for a reason** - Prov 15:14 The mind of the intelligent seeks knowledge, But the mouth of fools feeds on folly. NASB

True intellect is taught by God and displayed spiritually – 1 Cor 2:13 This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.

God hid the Spiritual truth from the Worldly intelligent - Matt 11:25-26 - 25 At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the WISE and LEARNED, and revealed them to little children. 26 Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure.

Intelligence by itself corrupts a person - 1 Cor 8:1-3 - Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that we all possess knowledge. KNOWLEDGE PUFFS UP, but **love builds up**. 2 The man who thinks he knows something does not yet know AS HE OUGHT TO KNOW. 3 But the man who loves God is known by God.

Godly intelligence seeks information from God –

Prov 15:14 The discerning heart seeks knowledge, but the mouth of a fool feeds on folly.

Prov 18:15 The heart of the discerning acquires knowledge; the ears of the wise seek it out.

Worldly intelligence is doomed - Isa 29:14 Therefore once more I will astound these people with wonder upon wonder; the wisdom of the wise will perish, the intelligence of the intelligent will vanish."

Conversations that exclude God, will lead to people becoming ungodly - 2 Tim 2:16-17 - 16 Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. 17 Their teaching will spread like gangrene.

If we are not careful, we will be misled by things that "sound" good - Col 2:2-4 - 2 My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. 4 I tell you this so that **NO ONE MAY DECEIVE YOU BY FINE-SOUNDING ARGUMENTS**.

- **Encouraged in heart** – our comfort & motivation is to solely be in our purpose which should be Christ
- **United in love** – Love is to be what defines our relationships

Those that depend on human intelligence can cause a lot of damage - 2 Peter 3:16 He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.

Worldly intelligence caters to our senses and to living by our senses, instead of Faith we live based on outcome - Col 2:20-23 - 20 Since you died with Christ to the basic principles of this world, why, as though you still belonged to it, do you submit to its rules: 21 "Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!"? 22 These are all destined to perish with use, because they are based on human commands and teachings. 23 Such regulations indeed have AN APPEARANCE OF WISDOM, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.

The intelligence of someone who teaches false doctrine is not intelligent at all - 1 Tim 6:3-5 - 3 If anyone teaches false doctrines and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, 4 he is conceited and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions 5 and constant friction between men of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain.

Stop adding your understanding to your trust in God - Prov 3:5 Trust in the Lord WITH ALL YOUR HEART and LEAN NOT on your own understanding;

Christ prayed that the WORD will separate us to be used exclusively by God - John 17:14-17 - 14 I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. 15 My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. 17 **Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth**.

We are to avoid all teachings not based on the pure Word of God - 1 Tim 6:20-21 - 20 Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care. **TURN AWAY FROM** godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge, 21 which some have professed and in so doing have wandered from the faith. Grace be with you.

Do not allow the World's intelligence be what you count as strength - 1 Cor 3:18-20 - 18 **DO NOT DECEIVE YOURSELVES**. If any one of you thinks he is wise by the standards of this age, he should become a "fool" so that he may become wise. 19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight. As it is written: "He catches the wise in their craftiness"; 20 and again, "The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile."

Culture (most divisive) - Based on your environment, race, era, location... before considering God

Col 2:8 See to it that no one takes you captive through **hollow** and **deceptive** philosophy, **WHICH DEPENDS ON** human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.

Culture has blurred our focus - Phil 4:8 Finally, brothers, **whatever is TRUE, whatever is NOBLE, whatever is RIGHT, whatever is PURE, whatever is LOVELY, whatever is ADMIRABLE — if anything is EXCELLENT OR PRAISEWORTHY — think about such things.**

***God created culture in order for us to seek Him** - Acts 17:26-27 - 26 From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. 27 **GOD DID THIS SO THAT MEN WOULD SEEK HIM** and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us.

We are not to allow culture to mold us - Rom 12:2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will

A major part of true Religion is not being polluted by the World -James 1:27 **RELIGION THAT GOD OUR FATHER ACCEPTS AS PURE AND FAULTLESS IS THIS:** to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to **KEEP ONESELF FROM BEING POLLUTED BY THE WORLD.**

We have trouble accepting the things of God, because we haven't accepted that we are of God - 1 John 4:4-6 - 4 You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. 5 They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and **THE WORLD LISTENS TO THEM**. 6 **We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us**; but **whoever is not from God does not listen to us**. **THIS IS HOW WE RECOGNIZE THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH AND THE SPIRIT OF FALSEHOOD.**

If not careful, our culture will (and has) distort our understanding of God the way it's been done from the beginning - Gen 3:4-5 - 4 "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. 5 "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

We've even allowed unbelievers to mediate between believers (not only judges, but also counselors, advisors, "experts" ...) 1 Cor 6:1 If any of you has a dispute with another, dare he **take it before the ungodly** for judgment instead of before the saints?

Satan distracts us using culture and we end up working against Christ - Phil 3:18-19 - 18 For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. 19 Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. **Their mind is on earthly things.**

False teachers thrive due to culture

There is a lot of bad information we must avoid, and how we do it is to work on being Godly - 1 Tim 4:7-8 - 7 Have nothing to do with GODLESS MYTHS and OLD WIVES' TALES; rather, train yourself to be godly. 8 For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.

False teachers will cause confusion - 2 Peter 2:1-2 - But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly INTRODUCE DESTRUCTIVE HERESIES, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them — bringing swift destruction on themselves. 2 Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute.

Be focused not to be misled by charismatic and sensational speakers - Col 2:18-19 - 18 Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you for the prize. Such a person goes into great detail about what he has seen, and his unspiritual mind puffs him up with idle notions. 19 He has lost connection with the Head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow.

The culture we must represent in every way is Heavenly - 1 Peter 2:11-12 - 11 Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. 12 Live such good lives AMONG THE PAGANS that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

We must live our lives focus on Heavenly things- Col 3:2-4 - 2 Set your minds on things above, NOT on earthly things. 3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

When it comes to culture our culture is "Sons of God" - Gal 3:26-29 - 26 You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, 27 for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

It's up to us to know the difference between what is right and what is wrong - Prov 3:21-22 -21 My son, preserve sound judgment and discernment, do not let them out of your sight; 22 they will be life for you, an ornament to grace your neck.

All Christians should have the viewpoint of Paul when it comes to the foundation of our ministry - Gal 1:14-17 - 14 I was advancing in Judaism beyond many Jews of my own age and was extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers. 15 But when God, who set me apart from birth and called me by his grace, was pleased 16 to reveal his **SON IN ME** →

→ so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not consult any man, 17 nor did I go up to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before I was, but I went immediately into Arabia and later returned to Damascus.

Make no mistake it is God, not culture, that makes God clear to man - Rom 1:18-20 - 18 The **WRATH OF GOD IS BEING REVEALED** from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, 19 since *what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.* 20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities — his eternal power and divine nature — have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

The biggest problem honoring culture is we tend to mix it with and/or place it before worshipping God - Mark 7:6-9 - 6 He replied, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: "'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. 7 They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.'" 8 You have ***let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men.***" 9 And he said to them: "**YOU HAVE A FINE WAY OF SETTING ASIDE THE COMMANDS OF GOD IN ORDER TO OBSERVE YOUR OWN TRADITIONS!** (i.e. Hair 1 Cor 3:15-16)

It's not the culture that God receives, it will be certain people from every culture - Acts 10:34-35 - 34 Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that **God does not show favoritism 35 but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right.**

The only culture that should be focused and recognized by ALL Christians is the Christian culture - 1 Peter 2:9-10 - 9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

How to keep doctrine sound in your walk

***All of the characteristics are very important for all Christians to have but they must be controlled by the Spirit. They are NEVER to be in control.**

Be Spiritual - Rom 8:12-13 - 12 Therefore, brothers, **WE HAVE AN OBLIGATION** — but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. 13 For if you live according to the sinful nature, YOU WILL DIE; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, YOU WILL LIVE,

Make sure everything is based solely on the Bible - 1 Cor 4:6 Now, brothers, I have applied these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, so that you may learn from us the meaning of the saying, "**Do not go beyond what is written.**" Then you will not take pride in one man over against another.

It's important to control what is taught - 1 Tim 1:3-7 - 3 As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain men not to teach false doctrines any longer 4 nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. These promote controversies rather than God's work — which is by faith. 5 The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. 6 Some have wandered away from these and turned to meaningless talk. 7 They want to be teachers of the law, but they do not know what they are talking about or what they so confidently affirm.

Check the substance of what you are being taught - Eph 5:6-7-6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. 7 Therefore do not be partners with them.

We must deal with someone who is determine to teach false doctrine - Titus 3:10-11 - 10 Warn a divisive person once, and then warn him a second time. After that, have nothing to do with him. 11 You may be sure that such a man is warped and sinful; he is **SELF-CONDEMNED.**

We need to continually check ourselves to make sure we are in line with God's Word- Ps 119:80 -May my heart be blameless toward your decrees, that I may not be put to shame.

The main weapon Satan uses against us is us. He uses the world to influence us -1 John 2:15-16 - 15 **DO NOT LOVE THE WORLD or ANYTHING IN THE WORLD.** If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 **For everything** in the world — the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does — comes not from the Father but from the world. 1) **What man desires, 2) How man sees things, 3) Man being the purpose**

All truth, including how we see God, must come from God and not formed by us - John 14:6-7 - 6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." 7 **IF YOU REALLY KNEW ME,** you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

***Let's end with revisiting Eve's dealings with the threatening of sound doctrine. In (Matt 4:1-11) Jesus displays how it should be done. Using Christ's encounter with Satan in the wilderness, below is a description of how Jesus combatted with Sound doctrine.**

1. If it is not in the Word, make sure the answer is based on Sound doctrine
2. Make sure when the Word is used, that it is in line with all Scripture
3. The Bible is clear; we are to worship and serve God ONLY

9. How are Christians unfortunately replacing Spirituality with Intelligence –

10. When is Culture appropriate in a Christian's life? –

11. How are Christians unfortunately replacing Spirituality with Culture?

12. How can Christians be Spiritual?

13. In John 14:6-7 what is the key word and why?