

CATEGORIES OF TRUTH WE TEACH AND PREACH

by David C. Innes

Categories of Truth	VERY CLEAR	NOT SO CLEAR — LOGICAL CONCLUSIONS	SPECULATION	PETTY PERSONAL PREFERENCE
As to doctrine this becomes	A conviction — a belief for which we would die	A preference though strongly believed	A mere preference	No obligation at all
Essence of doctinal belief	Belief of a clear statement	A matter of interpretation	A matter of supposition	Totally immaterial
As to practice this becomes	A Divine command with no option	An option though strongly believed	Totally optional	No obligation at all
Essence of practice	Necessary obedience	A sincere desire to obey	A desire to be sincere	Totally immaterial
Denial of this category of truth is	Heresy or willful rebellion against God	A disagreement of some consequence	A mere disagreement	Not worth talking about
Biblical command that applies to denial	Command of repudiation and separation	Command of love and harmony	Command of love and unity	Command to avoid foolish questions and contentions
Biblical response to denial of this category	Denunciation and separation <i>Confrontation</i>	Toleration and Christian charity <i>Accommodation</i>	Toleration and Christian charity	Ignore
Level of importance	Absolutely fundamental and essential to	Not fundamental or essential but important	Not important	A hindrance rather than a help

	Christian Faith			
Level of fellowship agreement allows	Personal fellowship and limited church fellowship	Closer church fellowship and joint participation	Unlimited fellowship and participation	Has a negative impact on fellowship
Level of fellowship lack of agreement allows	None	Limited	Unlimited	Has a negative impact on fellowship
Agreement of belief indicates	A true Christian brother	A Christian brother of like faith and order	A rare find	Does not exist

SPECIAL NOTE: These categories of truth should never be taught or preached with the same authority.

Truth must be preached "out" of the Scriptures, not "into" the Scriptures. It is dishonest to pre-
social
conclusions and speculations with the same "thus saith the Lord" as we would with truth which

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