

# SOUND DOCTRINE & THE SINGLE ADULT



Spring Conference 2026



“Who is the LORD that I should  
obey His voice to let Israel go?

*“I do not know the LORD.”*

EXODUS 5:2



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“This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”

JOHN 17:3



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“Eternal life turns on nothing more and nothing less than knowledge of the true God.”

D. A. CARSON, COMMENTARY ON THE GOSPEL OF JOHN



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“merely intellectual [or] informational ... [but this]  
knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ entails  
fellowship, trust, personal relationship, [and] faith.”

D. A. CARSON, COMMENTARY ON THE GOSPEL OF JOHN



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“For at no time, perhaps, since the Reformation have Protestant Christians as a body been so unsure, tentative, and confused as to what they should believe and do.”

J. I. PACKER, GOD HAS SPOKEN



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“This I say for your own benefit; not to put a restraint upon you, but to promote what is appropriate and to secure undistracted devotion to the Lord.”

1 COR. 7:35



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# SOUND DOCTRINE AND THE SINGLE ADULT

Session 1: The Practical Reasons We Need Sound Doctrine

Session 2: The Biblical Models to Learn Sound Doctrine

Session 3: The Key Commitments to Grow in Sound Doctrine



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# THE PRACTICAL REASONS WE NEED SOUND DOCTRINE

## I. A Working Definition of Sound Doctrine (cf. Titus 1:9)



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“Paul does not have in mind some arbitrary selection of unrelated facts but a saving and life-transforming body of doctrine.”

ROBERT YARBROUGH, COMMENTARY ON P. EPISTLES



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“The main principles of Christianity [that must be]  
collected and brought together....  
[They] lie scattered in the Scripture.”

MATTHEW HENRY



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# THE PRACTICAL REASONS WE NEED SOUND DOCTRINE

- I. A Working Definition of Sound Doctrine (cf. Titus 1:9)
  - A. “The trustworthy message” – all the body of doctrine
  - B. “Sound doctrine” – clean teaching/instruction
  - C. “Hold fast” – to cling to



“These passages point out that in the apostolic age, the process of organizing the teaching of Scripture into a doctrinal or theological understanding of the whole had already begun. This means it was done with the approval of the apostles. In fact, the apostles were themselves deeply involved in this process.”

TOM PENNINGTON, THE PASTOR AND SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY



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# THE PRACTICAL REASONS WE NEED SOUND DOCTRINE

## I. A Working Definition of Sound Doctrine (cf. Titus 1:9)

Sound doctrine is rightly collecting, knowing, and understanding the whole body of truth in Scripture and clinging to it as a lifeline for spiritual life.



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# THE PRACTICAL REASONS WE NEED SOUND DOCTRINE

I. A Working Definition of Sound Doctrine (cf. Titus 1:9)

II. The Presuppositions of Sound Doctrine

A. Scripture *alone* is the final authority for sound doctrine.

- *Norman norms* – “the rule that rules”



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# THE PRACTICAL REASONS WE NEED SOUND DOCTRINE

- I. A Working Definition of Sound Doctrine (cf. Titus 1:9)
- II. The Presuppositions of Sound Doctrine
  - A. Scripture *alone* is the final authority for sound doctrine.
  - B. Church history—creeds, church councils, confessions, and theological works—helps articulate sound doctrine but *never* surpasses the authority of Scripture.



“Tradition, viewed as the past teaching of the church in its confessions, creeds, and representative theologians, effectively represents the sum total of the accumulated biblical exegesis of the Christian church. It is not on a par with Scripture—some of it may even mislead us—but we neglect it at our peril and use it to our great advantage.”

ROBERT LETHAM, SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY



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# THE PRACTICAL REASONS WE NEED SOUND DOCTRINE

- I. A Working Definition of Sound Doctrine (cf. Titus 1:9)
- II. The Presuppositions of Sound Doctrine
  - A. Scripture *alone* is the final authority for sound doctrine.
  - B. Church history—creeds, church councils, confessions, and theological works—helps articulate sound doctrine but *never* surpasses the authority of Scripture.
  - C. Non-scriptural or extra-biblical terminology can be used to describe scriptural concepts.



“It is not lawful to form any doctrines not in Scripture, yet it is lawful sometimes to use words which are not found there if they are such as will enable us either to explain divine things or to avoid errors.”

FRANCIS TURRETIN, INSTITUTES OF ELENCTIC THEOLOGY



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## II. The Presuppositions of Sound Doctrine

- A. Scripture *alone* is the final authority for sound doctrine.
- B. Church history—creeds, church councils, confessions, and theological works—helps articulate sound doctrine but *never* surpasses the authority of Scripture.
- C. Non-scriptural or extra-biblical terminology can be used to describe scriptural concepts.
- D. Reading and citing various orthodox Christian traditions/theologians is acceptable but it doesn't mean you subscribe to all their beliefs and conclusions.
- E. It is acceptable to disagree on non-essential matters of Christian theology.
- F. No matter how far we drill down into Scripture, we will never exhaust the depth/breadth of the Triune God.



# THE PRACTICAL REASONS WE NEED SOUND DOCTRINE

- I. A Working Definition of Sound Doctrine (cf. Titus 1:9)
- II. The Presuppositions of Sound Doctrine
- III. The Theological-Practical Reasons for Sound Doctrine



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# III. The Theological-Practical Reasons for Sound Doctrine

1. To grow in our knowledge and understanding of God
2. To structure and order your life
3. To distinguish between what is true and false
4. To renew our minds to the image of Christ
5. To grow in our love for Christ.
6. To maximize our use of spiritual gifts
6. To summarize the core doctrines of the faith
7. To fuel our lives for godliness
8. To mortify/kill our sin
9. To stand against the devil
10. To inform our prayers
11. To defend the faith
12. To operate within the church
13. To define and direct your season of life
14. To build your morals and ethics
15. To evangelize the lost
16. To unite with other believers
17. To stand with others in church history
18. To pursue the chief aim of our existence



