

# The Teacher and Loving Bible Doctrine

## Key Verse

I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.  
(III John 4)

## Lesson Objectives

After this lesson, students should be able to

- Understand the basics of Gnosticism
- Realize the need of Bible doctrine
- Develop a love for Bible doctrine
- Teach Bible doctrine

## Introduction

It is important to start this lesson by giving some background information in the three epistles written by John.

### I. Gnosticism

Toward the end of the first century, some Christians began drifting away from the truth about Christ. They were losing touch with those who had known Jesus in the flesh as the founders of the church began to die off. They were also being seduced by competing doctrines, especially early forms of Gnosticism.

Gnosticism is a system of false teachings that existed during the early centuries of Christianity. Its name came from *gnosis*, the Greek word for “knowledge.” The Gnostics believed that knowledge was the way to salvation. For this reason, Gnosticism was condemned as false and heretical by several writers of the New Testament. (from *Nelson’s Illustrated Bible Dictionary*, Copyright 1986, Thomas Nelson Publishers)

Jesus clearly declared in John 14:6, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

Due to competing doctrines, especially that of Gnosticism, second – and third – generation believers began to grow cold in their love for each other and lukewarm in their commitment to the truth. They had, as the Lord put it to the Ephesians, “left [their] first love” (Revelation 2:4).

First, II, and III John were written as a response to this trend. These letters called Christians back to the basics – the truth about Christ and the love of Christ. (*The Word in Life Study Bible*, Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1996, 2277)

## II. **Avoid Doctrinal Drift**

As Bible school instructors, one must make sure they do not drift. If teachers drift in their love for truth, it will show through in their teaching. This will result in weak ministers with no passion for truth. Churches will drift and the end result will be a watered down message that does not look like that of the early church.

Jesus, the living Word in incarnate, prayed, “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth” (John 17:17).

An old minister of the gospel once said, “Doctrine is to the church what bones are to the body; without them you are totally limp and can’t stand for anything.”

- It is impossible to have a true New Testament church without a love for doctrine.
- What we love, we embrace.
- To love means you have made a decision or choice to make someone or something the object of your affection. Love involves your emotions and is manifested through your actions. True love is something that can be seen, heard, felt, developed, protected, and promoted.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 reminds us of the importance of loving and teaching doctrine:

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord: and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

Doctrine, you have to love it! (John 1:1-5, 14)

Teachers must be glad that they can stand tall and say, "For I know whom I have believed in and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day!" (II Timothy 1:12)

- Matthew 24:12 informs us, "Because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold."
- Romans 1:16-17, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith."
- Bible teachers, must understand and teach repentance as the first response of faith in the gospel of the Jesus Christ, because Jesus clearly stated in Luke 13:3, "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."
- Teachers cannot and should not lose the revelation or understanding of the power that is in the name of Jesus. "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).
- Baptism is not an option. Luke recorded in Acts 10:48 "he [Peter] commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days." Ananias told Paul in Acts 22:16, "Now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord."

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall

receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. (Acts 2:38–39)

### III. Doctrine of Holiness

Some today would like to de-emphasize the need for a lifestyle of holiness. But separation from the world is a Bible doctrine.

Holiness comes from the root word *holy* and means separate or set apart. If you are set apart, then you are different from the crowd; you are not common. To be unholy is to be common, just like everyone else. But God has not saved us to be common. We do not want to fit in with the crowd as normal because I Peter 2:9 reminds us, “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light”.

### IV. Value of Bible Doctrine

Today, the Spirit of God calls Pentecostal teachers and spiritual leaders to “earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3).

Let us fall in love afresh with doctrine. “The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding” (Psalm 119:130). God’s purpose is to make us like Christ.

To be Christ-like means to

1. Think like Jesus (Philippians 2:5) [mind]
2. Feel like Jesus (Colossians 3:15) [emotions]
3. Act like Jesus (Colossians 3:17) [will]

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. (II Timothy 3:16–17)

- Notice, God's Word is given to us for four reasons: 1) doctrine, 2) reproof, 3) correction, and 4) instruction in righteousness. The reason is "that" the man of God may be perfect, completely equipped for all good works.
- God has a powerful process for the Bible school teacher to be mature (perfect), and completely equipped for all good works – love doctrine.

The purpose of Bible doctrine is to bring about a changed life; specifically, to change our character (perfect, mature, complete) and to change our conduct (good works). "So that the person who serves God may be fully qualified and equipped to do every kind of good deed" (II Timothy 3:17, GNT).

## Conclusion

Bible school instructors, make sure that you are always in love with Bible doctrine. When you embrace its truths, its truths will embrace you and you will enter into a whole new dimension of ministry and power.

Apostle Paul wrote in I Corinthians 2:4-5, "And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: that your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God."

Doctrine is power! Doctrine is instruction. Doctrine is liberating. Doctrine is life changing. Doctrine must be loved if it is to be faithfully practiced.

# The Teacher and Loving Bible Doctrine

## Lesson in Review

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Nation: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Define Gnosticism.

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2. According to Moses, who is responsible to teach doctrine to children?

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3. When and where were the children to be taught? Why?

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4. According to Paul, the inspired Scriptures are given for which four reasons?

- A. \_\_\_\_\_
- B. \_\_\_\_\_
- C. \_\_\_\_\_
- D. \_\_\_\_\_

5. How can you fall more deeply in love with Bible doctrine?

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6. If Bible school instructors drift, it will show in our teaching. What will then happen to the ministers and Churches?

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7. What does it mean to be Christ-like?

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8. What is the purpose of Bible doctrine?

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9. Bible School instructors, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. When we embrace its  
truths, \_\_\_\_\_.

10. What must you do to doctrine for it to be faithfully practiced?

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