

Date: May 12, 2019

Text: Acts 18:24-28

Title: Doctrine Matters

Big Idea: Sound doctrine is important for the health of the church and of the individual believer.

PRISCILLA AND AQUILA CORRECT APOLLOS

Read the passage together and discuss anything interesting that members of your group notice.

Who is Apollos (see verses 24-25)?

Is Apollos a Christian?

Why was it important for Priscilla and Aquila to explain the way of God more accurately to him?

WHY SOUND DOCTRINE?

Define the word “doctrine” and discuss if and why holding to right doctrine is important.

How is the local church to uphold and protect sound doctrine while not being overly rigid or dogmatic?

SIX APPEALS

First, let's care about sound doctrine.

Read 1 Timothy 1:3,10; 4:6; 6:3; Titus 1:9; 2:1-10; Ephesians 4:14; Jude 1:3; and Romans 16:17-18. Based on these verses, why is sound doctrine important? Is it a high value for you? Why or why not?

Second, let's keep the main things the main things.

What are the main beliefs that we should keep central—the doctrinal hills we should die on?

What would you consider as secondary, peripheral, or minor points of doctrine that shouldn't divide us?

Third, let's recognize that right doctrine is about right *living*, not just right *knowledge*.

Read Titus 2:1-10 again. What is the effect of right doctrine? Why then is *false* doctrine dangerous?

Fourth, let's give and receive correction with a posture of *love* and *humility*.

How did Priscilla and Aquila *and* Apollos show love and humility in how they either gave or received correction? What can we learn from them in how we interact with others in the church around doctrinal issues? How does *boldness* and *humility* relate to one another?

Fifth, let's take what we know and give it to others.

Apollos didn't know *everything*. But he spoke and taught about what he knew. If we are growing, we should want to give it away. If we are giving it away, we should grow even more.

How are you “passing on” the faith to others? Are there relationships you can/should pursue in order to do so?

Finally, let’s talk about baptism.

We will be encouraging those who have not been baptized, and who are followers of Jesus, to consider entering into this important step of discipleship. Discuss with your group if there are any who have not been baptized, and why it is important for them to do so.

- *Baptism is a symbol:* Romans 6:3-4; John 3:3; Titus 3:5; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13
- *Baptism is an affirmation of the work of God:* Ephesians 2:8-9
- *Baptism is an act of obedience and discipleship:* Matthew 28:19
- *Baptism is a proclamation of faith:* Colossians 2:12