

SI: All heresy is error but not all error is heresy.

GA: What classifies as error/heresy? How do you rank doctrines?

Begin? **S**ome things are more important than others. **1 Cor 15:3-4** *For I passed on to you as of first importance what I also received: that X died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the 3rd day according to the Scriptures. **Mt 23:23** *Woe to you, scribes & Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint & dill & cumin, & have neglected the weightier matters of the Law: justice & mercy & faithfulness; but these are the things you should have done w/o neglecting the others.**

- All doctrine matters, but not all doctrine matters in the same way.
- **Gospel = Level 1. Beware:** It's OK to disagree because that is not a gospel issue. It's not **Level 1—it doesn't matter!**
- **E**verything that **Θ** reveals matters! While there is a foundation—**T**here are **NO** insignificant doctrines. **A**ll doctrine matters!
- **W**hat is eternally weightier – **JX** – **o**pen or closed communion?
- **Level 3—****W**hat Scripture explicitly states or directly implies—**O**bey!
- Scripture is authoritative. It is necessarily clear.
- **L**ord, on that Day—**I didn't obey because it was not Level 1.**

ORT/NEED: What about this preacher, this church, or this movement? **Θ's** people search for truth. **Ps 119:66** *Teach me good judgment & discernment, for I rely on your commands.* **Prov 1:5** *let a wise person listen & increase learning, & let a discerning person obtain guidance.*

SUM: The faithful pastor both fills & fulfills the pulpit—4 areas that give clear public witness to his fulfilling the pulpit: **v6a** He is blameless in public, **vv6b** at home, **vv7-8** in character, **v9** w/the Word.

CXT: **Js 3:5-6** *So too, though the tongue is a small part of the body, it boasts great things. Consider how a small fire sets ablaze a large forest. & the tongue is a fire. The tongue, a world of unrighteousness, is placed among our members. It stains the whole body, sets the course of life on fire, & is itself set on fire by hell.* Tongue is a devastating evil. How much more in the mouth of a false teacher? It needs silencing. It is a severe danger to **Θ's** people & society. **Θ** could sovereignly silence:

- 1) An evil tongue through sickness &/or death.
- 2) An evil tongue by bringing that deceiver to salvation.

- 3) Through the miraculous. **Ezek 3:26-27**. **Num 23-24**.
- 4) **Θ will forever silence** all false teachers/preachers. **Rev 20:10**.
- 5) **It** is the church of the living **Θ** & her pastors' job, to silence those who pervert **Θ**'s truth & confuse/corrupt **Θ**'s people. **1 Tim 6:20** *Guard what has been entrusted to you.*

CIT: Titus must deal with the deception of the false teachers in Crete.

CIS: The faithful pastor must deal with biblical & spiritual deception.

PNP: Notice 3 ways in which the faithful pastor deals with deception.

The faithful pastor understands the explosion & results of deception. **9** *holding to the faithful message as taught, so that he will be able both to encourage w/sound teaching & to refute those who contradict it.*

10 **For** there are many ^{proliferation} **10b** ^{behavior} **1** ^{root of heresy} rebellious people, ² full of empty talk ^{irreverent babblers} & ³ **deception** ^{mislead from X}, especially those from the circumcision party. **11a** It is necessary to **silence** them ^{effect on believers in churches—zero tolerance}; **11b** ^{motive/reason} they are ruining entire households by teaching what they shouldn't in order to get money dishonestly ^{taught for money}.

The faithful pastor severely reprimands and repudiates deception.

12 One of their very own prophets said ^{character}, “Cretans are always ¹ liars, ² evil beasts ^{instinct not HS}, ³ lazy gluttons ^{self-indulgent}.” **13** This testimony is true. For this reason, **rebuke** ^{reprove} them sharply ^{severely}, **so that** they ¹ may be sound in the faith **14** & ² **repudiate/disavow** may not pay attention to Jewish myths & the commands of people who reject the truth.

The faithful pastor clearly identifies and evaluates deceivers.

15 ^{Their inward lives} To the pure ^{in heart & conscience}, everything ^{his actions} is pure, but to those who are defiled & unbelieving nothing is pure; in fact, both their mind & conscience are defiled ^{polluted}. **16** They claim ^{profess} to know **Θ**, ^{Their outward lives} but they deny Him by their works. They are detestable ^{dispicable}, disobedient ^{defiant}, & unfit for any good work ^{reprobate}.

CIS: The faithful pastor must deal with biblical & spiritual deception.

CEP: I fear many have *Drunk the Kool-Aid* (bought/deceived). 1970's mainline liberal w/UPC Jim Jones 1000 Jonestown Guyana. 1978 led 909 to commit mass suicide by drinking Kool-Aid + cyanide (largest loss of US civilian life before 9/11). Jones is notorious, opting to *leave the church*—cult. Most are more subtle—*staying in the church*, abusing, misusing Θ 's Word & sucking the very life out of Θ 's people.

Does the pastor sit idly as death permeates the congregation? Does the pastor allow the wolves to devour the flock? What does he do?

- a. He *exhorts & convinces* by *sound doctrine* v9. Overpowers deception w/the truth—clearly, precisely, & powerfully so that they will hide in shame. \mathcal{J} —cannot answer Him—wilderness. *Thus saith the Lord* is the end of every argument!

2 Cor 10:4-5 *since the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but are powerful through Θ for the demolition of strongholds. We demolish arguments & every proud thing that is raised up against the knowledge of Θ , & we take every thought captive to obey X .*

- b. He directly revokes their right to preach, teach—or otherwise have leadership or influence through various means (books, podcasts, radio, TV, conferences, YouTube. You ask—I.
- c. He lives a holy life. Error promotes sin—the deceiver will inevitably fall into sin. Life should mirror teaching (*ethos*).

1 Pet 2:15 *For it is Θ 's will that you silence the ignorance of foolish people by doing good.*

G: False teachers & their doctrine is like gangrene. **Rev 12:9** *the one who deceives the whole world.* **Jn 8:44** *he is a liar & the father of lies.*

1 Jn 3:8 *The Son of Θ was revealed for this purpose: to destroy the devil's works.*

1 Tim 1:15 *$X\mathcal{J}$ came into the world to save sinners.*

Jn 12:46 *I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.*