

Beliefs & Practices by Categories of Truth

| <p><i>Column 1</i> Very Clear Biblical Statements</p> | <p><i>Column 2</i> Logical Conclusions based on Very Clear Biblical Statements</p> | <p><i>Column 3</i> Speculation – Informed and Uninformed Personal Opinions</p> | <p><i>Column 4</i> (Petty Personal Preference)</p> |
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| <p>Inspiration of Old and New Testament Scriptures</p> <p>Preservation of God’s Word</p> <p>God exists eternally in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit</p> <p>Man’s creation by direct act of God</p> <p>All men are sinners</p> <p>Virgin birth of Christ</p> <p>Deity and true humanity of Christ</p> <p>Substitutionary death of Christ as a full payment for our sins</p> <p>Vicarious atonement for sin by the shedding of His blood</p> <p>Bodily resurrection of Christ</p> <p>Salvation by faith alone in Christ alone totally apart from works</p> <p>Personal return of Christ for His own</p> <p>Preaching of the gospel to the entire world</p> <p>Discipling of believers</p> <p>Baptizing of believers</p> <p>Observance of the Lord’s supper</p> <p>Love toward and unity with obedient believers</p> <p>Separation from disobedient believers and from apostate unbelievers</p> <p>Biblically mandated morality</p> | <p>Denominational distinctives</p> <p>Mode of baptism</p> <p>The security of the believer in Christ</p> <p>Premillennial, pretribulational rapture of the church</p> <p>Offices in the local church</p> <p>Form of church government</p> <p>Dispensational view of Scripture vs. covenant theology</p> <p>Views on marriage, divorce and remarriage</p> <p>Role of women in the Church</p> <p>Standards of dress and conduct</p> <p>Standards of Church music</p> <p>Open or closed communion</p> <p>Election and predestination</p> <p>Sabbath vs. Lord’s Day</p> <p>“Christian” vs. Biblical counseling</p> <p>Extended applications of Biblical morality</p> <p>Healing in the atonement</p> <p>Cessation of <i>sign gifts</i></p> <p>Location of the physical blood of Christ</p> <p>Many other applications of <i>Column 1</i> truth</p> | <p>How God preserves His Word — in which manuscripts and translations*</p> <p>Traditions of individual local Churches</p> <p>Applications of standards of dress and conduct</p> <p>Choice of education of children — public, Christian or home school</p> <p>Dietary choices</p> <p>When the New Testament Church began</p> <p>Applications of Church government</p> <p>Extended applications of beliefs about marriage, divorce and remarriage</p> <p>Forms of worship — formal vs. informal, etc.</p> <p>Extended applications of election and predestination</p> <p>Applications of Sabbath vs. Lord’s Day</p> <p>Many other extended applications of <i>Column 2</i> truth</p> <hr/> <p>* These conclusions are based almost exclusively on <i>extra-biblical</i> sources — archaeology, history, textual research, and scholarship — which places all of this in the realm of human ideas and opinions. There does not exist anywhere a clear statement of Scripture to settle these matters which are being so hotly debated by good and godly men.</p> | <p>Extended applications concerning manuscripts and translations</p> <p>Other specific applications of standards of dress and conduct</p> <p>Personal preference in fashion</p> <p>Styles of preaching</p> <p>Personality divisions</p> <p>Architecture and design of the church building</p> <p>Extended applications of Church government — how things ought to be done</p> <p>Kinds of church ministries and outreaches</p> <p>Holiday celebrations</p> <p>Christmas trees</p> <p>Many other extended applications from <i>Column 3</i></p> |