

Gospel Essentials

WHAT DO WE BELIEVE ? HOW SHOULD WE LIVE ?



LESSON 1 RECAP

Q: How did the Apostles equip Christians in the early church?

A: Traditions that were delivered in particular ways.



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TRADITIONS

2 Thessalonians 2:15

So then, brothers, **stand firm** and **hold to the traditions** that you were taught by us, either by our **spoken word** or by our **letter**.

Matthew 15:2–3

“Why do your disciples break the **tradition of the elders**? For they do not wash their hands when they eat.” He answered them, “And why do you break **the commandment of God** for the sake of **your tradition**?”



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DELIVERED

1 Corinthians 11:2

Now I commend you because you remember me in everything and *maintain the traditions* even as I *delivered* them to you.

2 Timothy 1:13–14

Follow *the pattern* of the *sound words* that you have *heard from me*, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, *guard the good deposit entrusted to you*.



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LESSON 2

ESTABLISHING BELIEVERS

Q: How important was the process of *establishing Christians in the apostles doctrine*, and how did they do it?



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ESTABLISHING THE CHURCH

READING

Acts 11:19-26, Acts 14:21-23, Acts 15:36 - 16:4, and Ephesians 3:1-13

QUESTIONS

1. How important was it for the Jerusalem Church to get leaders out to Antioch, and why?
2. Why did Barnabas and Paul go back to the cities/people they had already proclaimed the gospel too? What was their goal?
3. Based on the passage in Acts 11 and Ephesians 3, what was the first theological challenge the early churches and apostles had to overcome?



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ESTABLISHING BELIEVERS

Q: How important was *the process* of establishing Christians in the apostles doctrine, and *how did they do it*?

A1: Paul *verbally established* it in the new Christians and churches.



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1 Timothy 3:14–16

Here is how we read it...

14 I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, 15 if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth. 16 Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness: He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.



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1 Timothy 3:14–16

3 important things:

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LESSON 2

ESTABLISHING BELIEVERS

Q: How important was *the process* of establishing Christians in the apostles doctrine, and *how did they do it*?

A2: Paul *wrote letters* to the churches to address areas of doctrine.



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1 Thessalonians 3:1–13

1 Therefore when we could bear it no longer, we were willing to be left behind at Athens alone, 2 and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's coworker in the gospel of Christ, to establish and exhort you in your faith, 3 that **no one be moved** by these **afflictions**. For you yourselves know that we are destined for this. 4 For when we were with you, we kept **telling you beforehand** that we were to **suffer affliction**, just as it has come to pass, and just as you know. 5 For this reason, when I could bear it no longer, I sent to learn about your faith, for fear that somehow the tempter had tempted you and our labor would be in vain.



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Titus 1:5

[Paul, writing to Titus, says]

This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you



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LESSON 2

ESTABLISHING BELIEVERS

Q: How important was *the process* of establishing Christians in the apostles doctrine, and *how did they do it*?

A3: Paul *sent trusted people* to the churches to address areas of doctrine.



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MAIN IDEAS

1. Sound doctrine was to be lived out in the churches not just believed.
2. Paul labored to see that the churches were established in “the teaching” and remained strong in the faith.
3. Paul’s early letters focus on grounding them in this faith, and his later letters, as well as the general epistles (especially 2 Peter and Jude), focus on remaining firm in faith and contending against false teachers.



QUESTIONS

- 1.** How did Paul respond to churches or individuals that resisted the traditions, patterns, and sound doctrine, delivered by him?
- 2.** How important did Paul say it was for new churches and Christians to be stabilized in sound doctrine?
- 3.** What are some of the implications of not stabilizing a new church (or new believer) in the traditions and doctrines the apostles delivered to the early churches?



LESSON 3

SOUND DOCTRINE

Q: What is the core gospel and the body of teaching the Apostles deposited in the Church?



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2 QUESTIONS

1. What does the passage say about the gospel (hint: it will be related to Jesus)?
2. What does belief in the gospel cause us to do or be?



EXAMPLE: ROMANS 1:1–6

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,



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