

Agreement with God...

Amos 3:3 – how can 2 walk together except they be agreed?

Agreement – a meeting of the minds (an “accord”, is unity always agreement?)

harmony or accordance in opinion or feeling; a position or result of agreeing.

the absence of incompatibility between two things; consistency.

a common intention, and is made through offer and acceptance.

His ways are higher than our ways, his thoughts greater than ours

Who can know the mind of the Lord?

He sets the bar.

His thoughts are right (righteous) pure, true, wise, etc

Our thoughts (knowledge) is limited, flawed, subjective, sinful

Can we ever agree with each other?

Our ideas turn into doctrines which turn into convictions...and into “dogma”.

(a fixed concrete belief without any room for doubt)

If we are dogmatically opposed, it is because of “critical thinking”.

(without feelings or opinions, or preconceived narrative)

The more someone is dogmatically certain, the further they are from enlightenment.

Absolute Essentials? - Fundamental primary teachings / doctrine?

Sola Fida the protestant reformation - 287 killed including 56 women

between c. 1500 and 1558 - Every day, 13 Christians worldwide are killed because of their faith. Every day, 12 churches or Christian buildings are attacked.

1. The Bible
2. Jesus

120 million have been martyred for christ to date

6 total doctrines listed on our website – my college had 16 fundamental doctrines
4 cardinal doctrines

Over 200 denominations in the Us alone

Major branches of Christianity –

1 billion catholics, 1 billion protestants,

4 million mainline, 7.5 million evangelicals, 2 million are non denom

Jews have 613 commandments

Catholics have 7 sacraments and 255 Infallibly Declared Dogmas of the Catholic Faith

The 16 most argued doctrines –

Baptism – Lord's Supper – Prayer – Holidays

Tongues – Separation (sanctification) – Great Commission – Faith and Works

Free Will and Predestination – Miracles & Spiritual Gifts,

Tithing – Sabbath – God's Will – Dispensationalism –

Bible Versions – Family Roles –

Life Church... and New Life Enid...

In addition to Essential Beliefs, we have liberty in **Non-Essential Beliefs.**

Accept the one whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters... Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master servants stand or fall... So then each of us will give an account of ourselves to God... So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God. Romans 14:1, 4, 12, 22

"I have the right to do anything," you say--but not everything is beneficial. "I have the right to do anything"--but not everything is constructive. No one should seek their own good, but the good of others. 1 Corinthians 10:23-4

Should we ? if we do, we may be labeled _____

1. Teach helpful, benevolent
2. Explain
3. Defend
4. Debate
5. Argue
6. Convert
7. Rebuke confrontational, aggressive, divisive
8. Separate
9. Hate (who? What? Why? When?)

Matt 10:34 - But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father in heaven. 34Do not assume that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. 35For I have come to turn 'a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law....

Luke 12 - But I have a baptism to undergo, and how distressed I am until it is accomplished! 51Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but division. 52From now on, five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three....

Things worth defending, debating, contending...

Jude 3 Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.

2 cor 11:3,4 But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. 4 For if

someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough.

Gal 1:6-9 I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— 7 not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. 9 As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.

ACTS 17 In Thessalonica

17 When Paul and his companions had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue. 2 As was his custom, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, 3 explaining and proving that the Messiah had to suffer and rise from the dead. “This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Messiah,” he said. 4 Some of the Jews were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a large number of God-fearing Greeks and quite a few prominent women.

5 But other Jews were jealous; so they rounded up some bad characters from the marketplace, formed a mob and started a riot in the city. They rushed to Jason’s house in search of Paul and Silas in order to bring them out to the crowd.[a] 6 But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some other believers before the city officials, shouting: “These men who have caused trouble all over the world have now come here, 7 and Jason has welcomed them into his house. They are all defying Caesar’s decrees, saying that there is another king, one called Jesus.” 8 When they heard this, the crowd and the city officials were thrown into turmoil. 9 Then they made Jason and the others post bond and let them go.

In Berea

10 As soon as it was night, the believers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea. On arriving there, they went to the Jewish synagogue. 11 Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for **they received** the message with great eagerness and **examined the Scriptures** every day to see if what Paul said was true. 12 As a result, many of them believed, as did also a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men. 13 But when the Jews in Thessalonica learned that Paul **was preaching** the word of God at Berea, some of them went there too, agitating the crowds and stirring them up. 14 The believers immediately sent Paul to the coast, but Silas and Timothy stayed at Berea. 15 Those who escorted Paul brought him to Athens and then left with instructions for Silas and Timothy to join him as soon as possible.

In Athens

16 While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. 17 So **he reasoned** in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there. 18 A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to **debate with him**. Some of them asked, “What is this babbler trying to say?” Others remarked, “He seems to be advocating foreign gods.” They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection. 19 Then they took him and brought him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? 20 You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we would like to know what they mean.” 21 (All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived **there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas**.) 22 Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: “People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. 23 For as I walked around and **looked carefully** at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: to an unknown god. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to **proclaim to you**.”