

Is Doctrinal Correctness Important?

At the end of February this year (2026) I gave a sermon *here* titled...

Are Sabbath Keepers “*Better than*” Sunday Keepers?

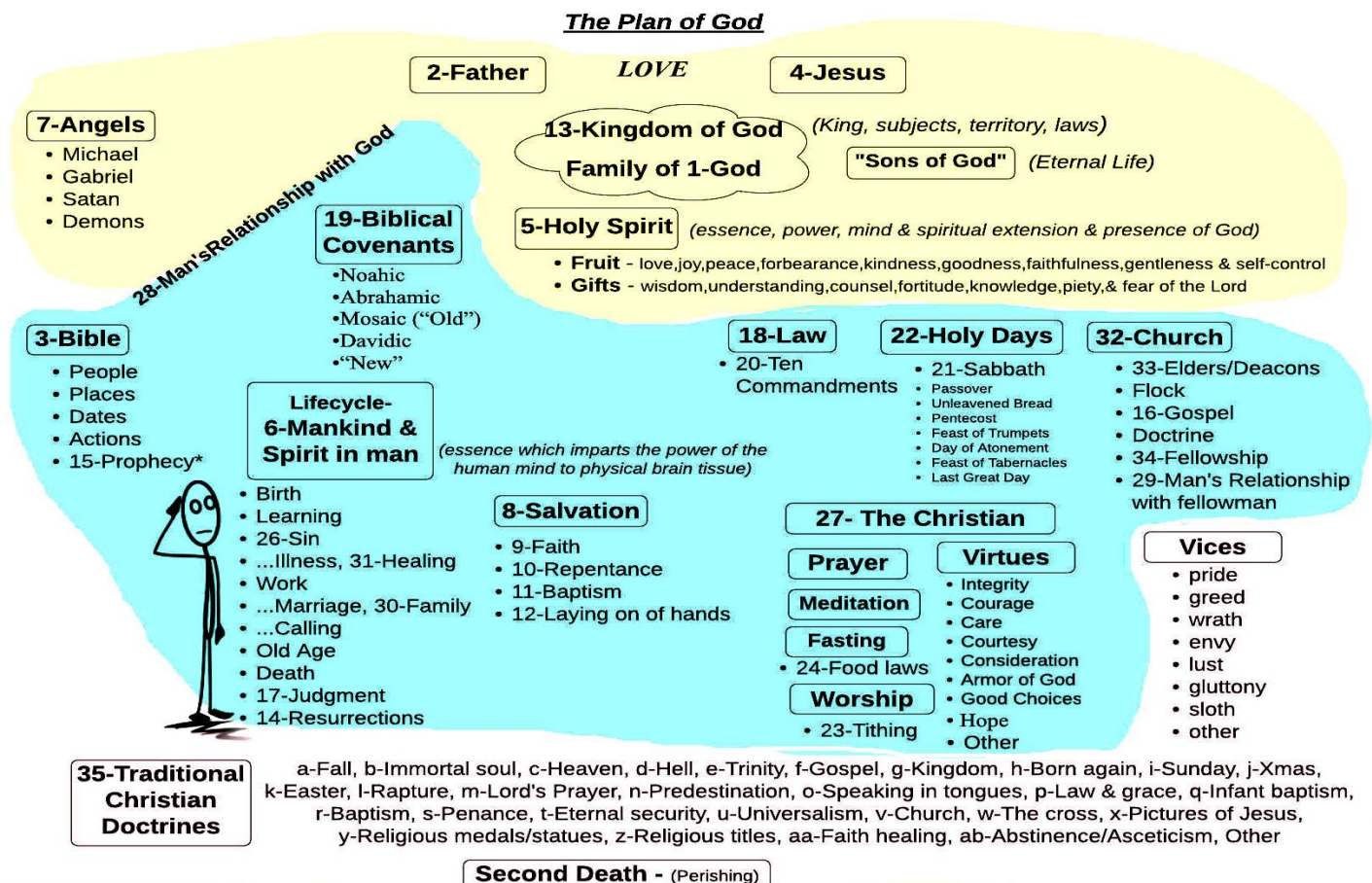
My goal was to expose a **dangerous** tendency in the Church of God to act & feel superior to mainstream Christianity because **we** have been blessed with God's Truth & **our** calling by God to be Firstfruits. The Key scripture...

1Cor 4:7 For who makes **you** differ from another? & what do **you** have that **you** did not receive? Now if **you** did indeed receive it, why do **you** boast as if **you** had not received it?

Context: The Apostle Paul wrote this to the church in Corinth, where believers were acting arrogant or "puffed up" about their spiritual knowledge, gifts, & leaders

Core Message: Paul uses a rhetorical question to remind them that any wisdom, truth, or ability they possess is **a gift from God** rather than something they earned or created on their own - It is a **call to humility** - Truth is a grace to be thankful for

It is ***easily possible*** to hear my February sermon & draw some unintended & ***dangerous*** conclusions!! So ... Today, I hope to use **God's Word** to help us see **the will & mind of God** to understand **how** a knowledge of the Truth - the TRUE doctrines of God - should impact ALL of us ... in how we **handle that Truth** as we **conduct our lives** in this world ... in 2026!



Second Death - (Perishing)

Time: (Past - History - Creation, 25-Hebrew Calendar ... Present -(World events) ... (Future - 15-Prophecy*) ... Eternity ...)

I would like to start with some fiction (I created) in the book of **2James1**

Vs 1 ... And we all recall how Jesus went out to **fellowship with all men** including the Buddhists, the Hindus, the worshippers of Baal & Molech & Dagon, along with the worshippers & priests of Tammuz, the Queen of Heaven (Ishtar or Astarte) & Diana.



2 And Jesus did this because he was **more loving & more tolerant** than that “nasty God” of the Old Testament with His strict rules about having no “other gods”



3 Jesus scoffed at “silly old” “divisive” ideas such as **1 Kings 18:21** where Elijah said to the people, "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him."

4 Jesus made it clear that “times have changed” from Moses day ... where **Exodus 34:14** says "Do not worship any other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God."

5 Surely **we** are wise enough today, that we **can** fellowship together with pagan & Christian churches & people who teach lies & believe falsehoods - & we **understand** they seek to deceive **more** people by adding followers to their popular churches - featuring beautiful banjo music, & candles & statues & wonderful choirs singing about the joy of going to Heaven & the warm feelings of Christmas.

6 We can **be an example to the world** that it **doesn't matter** what they teach on TV or radio or the Internet -- **we benefit** from entertaining “silver tongued” preachers, & fellowship & pot luck meals. Let no man judge you ... for God inspires all to **Attend the church of your choice** ... It's a “little thing” I call ... Freedom!



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Hopefully, everybody here sees this passage as ... a “little thing” really called ... **Foolishness!**

There is no 2James in the Bible ... Jesus would **NEVER** think or say such things!

But some true baptised “Church of God” Christians **seem to accept** some portion of these ideas listed above & I hope today's Sermon helps remind us of “the simplicity of Christ” (**2Cor 11:3**)

Luke 9:23 Whoever wants to be my disciple must **deny themselves** and take up their cross daily

Romans 12:2 – "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the **renewing** of your mind. Then you will be able to **test** and **approve** what **God's will** is—his good, pleasing and **perfect** will.

Mat 6:10 Your kingdom come. **Your will** be done On earth as it is in heaven.

Once again ... Is Doctrinal Correctness (“Truth”) **Important?**

(With how & where we spend our time... What does **God want** of us?)

NOTE: In today's Sermon “attending other churches” is literal & it's a metaphor for ALL of the bad influences (“baggage”) we can try to drag & keep in our lives

Why It Can Be Wrong to Attend/fellowship at Churches With Very Different Doctrines

- **Scripture presents** several reasons why a Christian should take doctrinal differences seriously when deciding which churches to attend, support, & **regard as sources of spiritual instruction**. These include:
 - the commands to preserve sound doctrine,
 - avoid false teaching,
 - maintain spiritual unity,
 - resist deception, &
 - worship God according to Truth.

An important distinction: The Bible does not explicitly command Christians to attend only one local congregation or state that visiting another church is inherently sinful. The concern arises when someone regularly participates in **churches whose teachings contradict one another on important biblical doctrines**, especially when doing so creates:

- confusion,
- compromises conviction, or
- exposes the person to false teaching

1. Reasons based on doctrinal truth & spiritual faithfulness



A. God commands Christians to test what they are taught.

1 Thes 5:21 (KJV) Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. *If one church teaches that a doctrine is essential & another teaches that it is false, a Christian cannot simply accept both without examining Scripture. Regularly attending both without resolving the contradiction can undermine the responsibility to test teachings & hold fast to truth.*

B. Christians are instructed to continue in sound doctrine

Titus 2:1 “But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine.”

2Tim 4:3-4 For the time will come when they will **not endure sound doctrine**, but according to their own desires, because they have **itching ears**, they will heap up for themselves teachers; & **they** will **turn their ears away from the truth**, and be turned aside to **fables**.

Application: *A Christian should not treat contradictory teachings as equally trustworthy merely because both are presented in religious settings.*

C. False doctrine can corrupt faith

1 Tim 4:16 — Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them...

2Tim 2:16-18 But shun profane & idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness. & their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus & Philetus are of this sort, who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; & they overthrow the faith of some..

Application: *Repeated exposure to serious doctrinal error can affect what a Christian believes, practices, & eventually teaches others.*

D. Christians must not be carried away by every new teaching.

Eph 4:14 warns against being “tossed to & fro & carried about with every wind of doctrine.”

A person who repeatedly moves between churches with incompatible teachings may become spiritually unstable rather than increasingly grounded in Scripture.



E. Christians are to guard the truth entrusted to them

2Tim 1:13–14 instructs Timothy to hold fast the pattern of sound words and guard what was committed to him.

Application: *Treating all churches as interchangeable can weaken a person's commitment to preserve biblical teaching and distinguish truth from error.*

2. Reasons based on **avoiding false teaching & spiritual danger**

#	Biblical reason	NKJV references	Why it matters
F	Some teachers distort the truth.	Acts 20:29–30	<i>Not every religious teacher faithfully represents biblical doctrine.</i>
G	Christians must beware of false prophets.	Matthew 7:15–20	<i>Religious appearance and persuasive speech do not guarantee sound teaching.</i>
H	False teachers may introduce destructive heresies.	2 Peter 2:1–3	<i>Some errors are spiritually serious, not merely differences of preference.</i>
I	Believers must not be deceived by persuasive arguments.	Colossians 2:4, 8	<i>Attractive presentations can conceal unbiblical ideas.</i>
J	Christians should reject a different gospel.	Galatians 1:6–9	<i>Contradictions concerning the gospel cannot simply be ignored.</i>
K	Christians must examine spiritual claims.	1 John 4:1	<i>Not every claim to speak for God is true.</i>
L	Believers must beware of doctrines that contradict Christ.	2 John 9–11	<i>Some teaching departs from the doctrine of Christ and requires a firm response.</i>
M	Christians should avoid persistent, divisive false teaching.	Romans 16:17–18	<i>Paul warns believers to identify and avoid those who cause divisions contrary to apostolic doctrine.</i>

N	False teaching can destroy others spiritual well-being	Matthew 18:6; James 3:1	<i>Religious teaching carries serious responsibility because people can be misled</i>
O	Christians must not be naïve about spiritual deception.	2 Corinthians 11:3–4, 13–15	<i>Deception can come through apparently religious people and messages.</i>

3. Reasons based on **unity, fellowship, and consistency**

P. Biblical unity is grounded in shared truth.

Eph 4:3–6 speaks of one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, & one baptism

Christian unity is not simply being friendly with everyone who identifies as Christian. It involves a common foundation of faith and allegiance to Christ.

Q. Christ's followers should not normalize contradictory beliefs.

1Co 1:10 Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

Churches will differ on some matters, but a person cannot consistently affirm two contradictory propositions as true in the same sense. Those differences need to be examined and resolved where possible.

R. Fellowship should reflect a genuine spiritual relationship.

1Jn 1:3 that which we have seen & heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; & truly our fellowship is with the Father & with His Son Jesus Christ ...

1Jn 1:6-7 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie & do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, & the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

Fellowship is not merely attendance at religious events. It should encourage shared faith, obedience, & a life consistent with God's truth.

S. Christians must avoid divided spiritual allegiance.

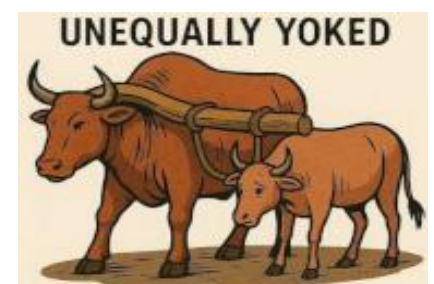
Matt 6:24 teaches that no one can serve two masters.

In its immediate context, Jesus is speaking about serving God versus mammon, not directly about attending different denominations. Nevertheless, the principle cautions against divided loyalties when competing religious authorities demand incompatible commitments.

T. Believers should not be unequally yoked in ways that compromise faithfulness.

2 Cor 6:14–18 warns against being unequally yoked with unbelievers.

This passage should not be treated as a direct prohibition against visiting a church with different doctrines. It does, however, support careful consideration of partnerships that could compromise Christian convictions.



U. Christians should not participate in teachings or practices that contradict their faith.
2Jn 1:10-11 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.

The principle becomes especially relevant when attendance means endorsing, promoting, or materially supporting serious doctrinal error—not simply entering a building to learn, visit, or speak with someone



4. Reasons based on conscience, worship, & personal integrity

#	Reason	NKJV scripture	Practical implication
V	Worship must be in spirit and truth.	John 4:23–24	<i>Sincerity alone does not make contradictory teachings true.</i>
W	Christians should worship according to God's word.	John 17:17	<i>God's word, not denominational popularity, must be the standard of truth.</i>
X	Believers should have a biblically informed conscience.	Romans 14:22–23	<i>A person should not deliberately violate conscience, though conscience must also be educated by Scripture.</i>
Y	Christians should act in faith rather than uncertainty.	Romans 14:5; 14:23	<i>Convictions concerning disputed practices should be formed before acting, not ignored for convenience.</i>
Z	Christians must obey God rather than people when authorities conflict.	Acts 5:29	<i>Loyalty to a religious institution cannot override obedience to God.</i>
AA	Christians must practice what they believe.	James 1:22	<i>Hearing different teachings is not enough; a believer must act on what Scripture actually teaches.</i>
AB	Christians must be willing to count the cost of discipleship.	Luke 14:26–33	<i>Faithfulness may require giving up religious environments that conflict with biblical convictions.</i>
AC	Believers should grow toward maturity/ discernment	Hebrews 5:12–14	<i>Spiritual maturity includes learning to distinguish good from evil.</i>
AD	Christians should examine themselves.	2 Corinthians 13:5	<i>It is appropriate to ask whether church attendance reflects conviction, spiritual growth, convenience, or a desire to avoid difficult decisions.</i>

5. Why attending contradictory churches can create **practical problems**



AE. It can produce doctrinal confusion.

If one congregation teaches that a practice is commanded by God and another teaches that it is abolished, a person needs to determine what Scripture actually says rather than switching positions with the location.

AF. It can weaken resistance to error.

Repeatedly hearing incompatible teachings without evaluating them may cause a person to assume that all doctrinal claims are equally valid. See Eph 4:14 & 1 Thes 5:21.

AG. It can make a person's profession inconsistent.

A person may affirm one doctrine in one congregation & its opposite in another. This can damage credibility & make meaningful discussion difficult. See Matt 5:37 & James 1:8.

AH. It can encourage superficial rather than accountable fellowship.

Constantly changing congregations to avoid correction, commitment, or responsibility can prevent meaningful spiritual growth. See Heb 10:24–25 and Prov 27:17.

AI. It can substitute personal preference for biblical discernment.

Choosing whichever church feels most comfortable on a given occasion can make convenience the deciding authority rather than Scripture. See 2 Timothy 4:3–4.

AJ. It can confuse Christian love with doctrinal indifference.

Christians are commanded to love others, but love does not require accepting every religious claim as true. See Eph 4:15 and 1 Cor 13:6.

6. What about **visiting** another church, attending a wedding, or **learning** from someone?

Situation	Biblical assessment
Regularly receiving spiritual instruction from two churches that teach contradictory doctrines	<i>Requires careful discernment; it can compromise doctrinal consistency. 2Pet 2:8 Lot in Sodom - it vexed his righteous soul</i>
Visiting another church to understand its beliefs	<i>Not inherently wrong; compare what is taught with Scripture (Acts 17:11).</i>
Attending a wedding or funeral in another denomination	<i>Not automatically wrong. Attendance does not necessarily imply agreement with every doctrine.</i>
Showing kindness to people from a different church (or people with different beliefs)	<i>Consistent with Christian love; disagreement does not justify hostility (Romans 12:18).</i>

Listening to a different viewpoint to examine whether one's own understanding is correct	<i>Can be beneficial when done with discernment (Proverbs 18:13, 17; Acts 17:11).</i>
Publicly endorsing teaching one believes contradicts Scripture	<i>Raises a serious question of integrity and faithfulness (Romans 16:17–18; 2 John 9–11).</i>
Participating in worship practices that violate one's biblically informed conscience	<i>Requires caution and careful examination (Romans 14:22–23).</i>

7. A biblical self-examination checklist

Use this checklist to examine the reasons for attending **different** churches with **different** doctrines -- a tool for assessing doctrinal consistency & spiritual responsibility.

- Have I identified the specific doctrines on which these churches disagree?
- Have I compared both positions with the relevant Bible passages in context?
- Am I willing to change my understanding if Scripture disproves my present belief?
- Do I accept contradictory teachings without attempting to resolve them?
- Am I attending both because I am searching honestly, or because I want to avoid choosing?
- Does my attendance imply support for teaching I believe is false?
- Am I becoming more discerning & grounded in Scripture, or increasingly confused?
- Can I explain my convictions honestly and consistently to others?
- Am I treating people from other churches with love while still examining/judging their teachings?
- Have I distinguished essential doctrine from secondary differences?

The goal is not to avoid every Christian who disagrees with you. It is to:

- become firmly grounded in biblical truth,
- maintain integrity in what you believe and practice, and
- avoid knowingly participating in teaching that leads people away from Christ.

Prov 14:7 Go from the presence of a foolish man, When you do not perceive in him the lips of knowledge.

BE Kind
BE Thoughtful
BE Thankful

