

What's The Deal At Stone Creek Church Part 12

Orthodox Beliefs

Romans 15:13

Memory Verses: Romans 15:13

Al 's Intro

When Pastor Shevi asked me to speak this morning, he said that my topic would be Orthodoxy. I had heard that term relative to Orthodox religions, Orthodox Judaism, Orthodox Greek, Orthodox....(others).... But honestly , I was not sure how it related to our church. I looked up orthodox to see its meaning. It's a Greek word...Ortho, meaning right and Doxa meaning way or belief.

Well, I know something about that! There are some beliefs that are non-negotiable. I was on the Police Department for 40 years and there was certainly a right way, an "orthodox" way of doing things and thinking. If you didn't follow those procedures or confidence in those beliefs we could lose a case or even a life. We had to know and believe that there was a "right" way to follow.

I was on the Rescue Squad for almost 50 years. There was the "right way" that things must be done or a life could be lost. Hilary, Avery, Conner, Rorrer, all you folks on the Fire Department know the requirements of fire fighting and rescue, the right way of doing things. The right belief system for success. Right Steve Dishman??

There is an orthodoxy on the football field..... In order to be successful there are certain fundamentals that have to be ingrained in my kickers or they will not see success.... We have to believe in those basics. I have this coffee mug that has written on the side "If at first you don't succeed, do what your coach told you to do in the first place"

There are groups that think their way IS THE RIGHT WAY and become Orthodox religious extremist... for example Al Qaeda, we must believe as they do or we die! So much unrest in our world...pushing to assume their way as the "right way"

Becky said that I am orthodox. She said that my belief is that "When I'm right, I'm right, and when I'm wrong, I'm right!!!!"

In fact, she's pretty Orthodox in her opinions. She reminds me of that most of the time. She has the "right way" and I have the last word....., "Yes mam"

Seriously though, not to make light of our thoughts today, relative to our orthodoxy as Christians. I think Orthodoxy is mainly thought of in the context of religion and faith. Within the realm of those who would claim the title of Christian, there are those of us who would claim that their beliefs stem directly from the word of God, without error.

I. Introduction (Me, We, & the Struggle)

A. Series Recap

The past few sessions have focused on “What’s the Deal at Stone Creek Church?” We have attempted to clarify our fundamental reasons for being here at this church, at this time and place. What is our vision, what is our mission and what are our expectations? We should all know this by now so that when others ask us “what are your folks about at Stone Creek?” we will be able to share our vision.

Let’s repeat our vision statement together: located up front

Vision – Depending on Christ we will reach our world with the Gospel to see lives completely transformed.

Our Core Values are –
 Relying on the Word, ()
 Consistent Prayer,
 Authentic Worship,
 Relational Outreach,
 Strategic Missions,
 Intentional Discipleship.

But what a world we live in!! What do we Really believe in this day of confusion? A theme of tolerance clouds the boundaries. My generation has seen so many changes in our lifetime.

It is really difficult for us “oldtimers.” Everything is ok, or seems to be,lifestyles, activities, they are tolerated as long as it does not conflict with my lifestyle. The only intolerance seems to be for the followers of Christ and His teaching.

Certainly, this was predicted to be prevalent in the last days.

B. The Setup

SO What is belief?

- a state or habit of mind in which trust or confidence is placed in some person or thing
- something that is accepted, considered to be true, or held as an opinion : something believed
- conviction of the truth of some statement or the reality of some being or phenomenon especially when based on examination of evidence

What is an Orthodox Belief?

- Conforming to what is generally or traditionally established and approved
- We believe that Christ, along with the apostles, and the early church have correctly defined and established the true doctrines of the church according to the Word of God.
- We hold to these orthodox beliefs tightly
- In most cases to stray from these beliefs by any measure would result in heresy
- While we are willing to listen to and consider different beliefs based upon the Word of God we have studied to show ourselves approved and are extremely confident in these beliefs..... in short – we must know what we believe

We stand on these fundamentals even if it is difficult and sometimes a challenge

2 Timothy 4:2 tells us “Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching”

In this confusing, world with the forces of Satan running rampant throughout, we really must **KNOW WHAT** we believe. ... We must know where our feet touch the ground.

The Struggle

Our Struggle....is that Until we do Know what we believe and why we believe it we will Fail to live it out!

In scripture, Paul tells us:

- ii. *Romans 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with all JOY and PEACE in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in HOPE.*

We must have a set of beliefs..... why?

for joy – knowing what we believe no matter what happens in our lives, knowing we are living for a greater purpose, gives us a joy

for peace – adhering to a specific set of beliefs assures us that no matter how hard or long the war is, we will be victorious

for hope – embracing orthodox beliefs gives us an assurance of God's blessing in this life and eternal life in the next

The Main Point is:

Until We Know What We Believe And Why We Believe IT.....We Will Fail To Live It Out

II. Teaching (Expand on the Problem)

A. **Orthodox Beliefs Can Only Come From The Word of God**

There is a standard for what we believe and that standard is the

Word of God

We don't shape our beliefs from man's ideas or from popular opinions

NOT Popular Opinions, Social Media, or Man's Ideas..... Sometimes we confuse preferences, opinions and traditions with our fundamental God inspired beliefs.

Ephesians 4:13-14 Explains the importance of understanding our beliefs and in being unified in our beliefs for the maturity of the Christian and so not to be tossed about in confusion:

“Until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every doctrine by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes”

Our beliefs Must come from Biblical Scripture.....Not just one verse, but whole scriptures. The Bible is our standard, NOT a suggestion.

We don't shape our beliefs upon the world's perspective or values

Everything we believe must have an abundance of biblical support

**not just one verse but the whole counsel of scripture

B. Orthodox Beliefs Shape Our Vision, Values, and Programs

We must know what we believe as it will shape who we are as a church.

We cannot have a vision for the church apart from a set of core beliefs that we must adhere to or hope to influence others to adhere to

Keep in mind that:

We do not consider every single teaching we adhere to as an orthodox belief

- some beliefs are secondary ...like end times, Tribulation
- some beliefs are grey areas...is alcohol forbidden or to be carefully moderated?

Orthodox beliefs are what our entire faith system hinges on. They are

in a sense, non-negotiable.

Our Beliefs are identified in our Stone Creek by-laws and are supported in the scriptures as identified in your notes:

Our Beliefs

What do we believe??

WE believe IN:

THE BIBLE: the Word of God, the sixty-six Books of the Old and New Testaments are verbally inspired in all parts, and therefore, wholly without error as originally given of God (II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:21).

We are reminded in

II Timothy 3:16

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness”

WE believe IN

THE ONE TRUE GOD: who exists eternally as three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Isaiah 48:16-17; Matthew 28:19; Luke 3:22; II Corinthians 13:14).

From the very beginning of the Bible, In Genesis 1:26
We see the plural nature of GOD as based on his Word

“Then God said, “Let US make man in OUR image, after OUR likeness... “

WE believe IN

THE LORD JESUS CHRIST:

- His pre-existence and deity (John 1:1-3)
- His incarnation by virgin birth (Matthew 1:18-23; John 14)
- His sinless life (Hebrews 4:15; I Peter 2:22),
- His substitutionary death (II Corinthians 5:21),
- His bodily resurrection (Luke 24:36-43),
- His ascension into heaven and present ministry (Acts 1:9; Hebrews 4:14-16),
- and His promise of coming again (Acts 1:11).

WE believe IN

THE HOLY SPIRIT:

- His personality (John 16:7-15);
- and deity (Acts 5:3-4);
- and His work in each believer; baptism and indwelling at the moment of regeneration (I Corinthians 12:13; Romans 8:9),
- and filling (Ephesians 5:18) to empower for Christian life and service (Ephesians 3:16; Acts 1:8; Galatians 5:22-23).

WE believe IN

- **MAN:** his direct creation in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-28),
- his subsequent fall into sin resulting in spiritual death (Genesis 3:1-24; Ephesians 2:1; Romans 5:12),
- and the necessity of new birth for his salvation (John 3:3-5; 3:16-18).

WE believe IN

SALVATION: and eternal salvation comes by God's grace alone, received as the gift of God through personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and His finished work on the Cross (John 14:6; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5-7; I Peter 1:18-19).

WE believe IN

THE CHURCH:

- there is one true Church, the body and bride of Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:22-23; 5:25-32),
- that is composed of all true believers of the present age (I Corinthians 12:12-13);
- and the organization of its members in local churches for worship, edification, fellowship and for world-wide gospel witness, each local church being autonomous but co-operating with other local fellowships of like faith in fellowship and work (Ephesians 4:11-16).

WE believe

- that the CHRISTIAN LIFE: includes a life of righteousness, good works, and separation unto God from the evil ways of the world (Ephesians 2:10; Romans 12:1-2),
- the Christian life follows the example of Jesus (I Peter 2:21),
- it maintains the sanctity of the home (Ephesians 5:22-6:4),
- The Christian life settles differences between Christians in accordance with the Word of God (Matthew 5:23-24; 18:15-17; I Corinthians 6:1-8),
- It does not engage in carnal strife but shows a Christ-like attitude toward all men (Romans 12:17-21),

- The Christian Life exhibits the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23),
- it and maintains life of prayer (Ephesians 6:18; Philippians 4:6),
- including the privilege when sick of calling for the elders of the church to pray and to anoint with oil in the name of the Lord (James 5:12-18).

WE believe IN

Specific ORDINANCES: These are our opportunities to focus on Christ

The Christian should observe these ordinances of our Lord Jesus Christ, which are:

- baptism of believers (Matthew 28:19)
This is A physical picture of a spiritual reality
- and the Communion of the bread and cup
We could not be saved without the body and blood of Jesus broken and poured out for us (I Corinthians 11:23-26).

WE believe IN

SATAN:

- his existence and personality as the great adversary of God and His people (Revelation 12:1-10),
- and in Satan's judgment (John 12:31),
- and His final doom (Revelation 20:10).

WE believe IN

The SECOND COMING: The personal, visible, and imminent return of Jesus Christ to establish His millennial Kingdom upon the earth (Revelation 19:11-20:6).

WE believe IN

The FUTURE LIFE: The conscious existence of the dead (Philippians 1:21-23; Luke 16:19-31),

- the resurrection of the body (John 5:28-29),
- the judgment and reward of believers (Romans 14:10-12; II Corinthians 5:10),
- the judgment and condemnation of unbelievers (Revelation 20:11-15),
- the eternal life of the saved (John 3:16),
- and the eternal punishment of the lost (Matthew 25:46; Revelation 20:15).

In summary: These are our orthodox beliefs at Stone Creek..The “right way” according to God’s Word

Until We Know What We Believe And Why We Believe IT.....We Will Fail To Live It Out