

Celebrating 50 years of Proclaiming Christ
BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Standing Firm in the Faith of the Gospel

Philippians 1:27-29

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Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;



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**Last week we laid out 8
values we clearly see in
the narrative of the
gospel.**





Gospel Values

- Christ-like Love
- Generosity
- Unconditional Forgiveness
- Reconciliation
- Submissive Obedience
- Self-Denial to Serve
- Compassion
- Humility

All to the glory of God.



Philippians 1:27

•Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit,

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Standing firm in one
spirit—is the unified
collective refusal to
compromise



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**Compromising is
often a good thing**

**But NOT when it comes to
the faith of the gospel.**

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One mind emphasizes
the complete unity of
the church





Philippians 1:27

- Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind

striving together for
the faith of the
gospel;

Or...



Philippians 1:27 (NET)

•contending side by side for the faith of the gospel,

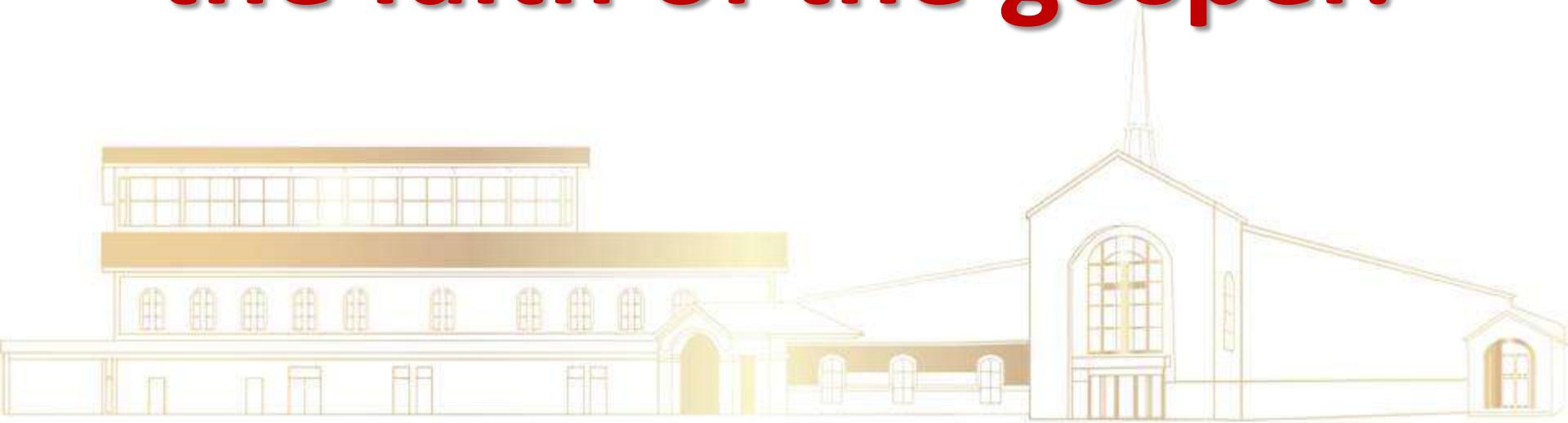
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**The faith of the gospel
refers to the collective
body of truth that
comprises the gospel.**



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**What does it mean to
strive or contend for
the faith of the gospel?**



Strive or Contend Includes:

- To devote serious effort or energy
- Maintain
- Assert for
- Strive in debate

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Commentary

God has entrusted local churches with the body of truth that make up the gospel and the true churches of the Lord Jesus Christ are those churches that contend for **the faith of the gospel.**

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At this point we must ask
what are the truths that
comprise **the faith of the**
gospel for which we
cannot compromise?

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The Faith

Includes:

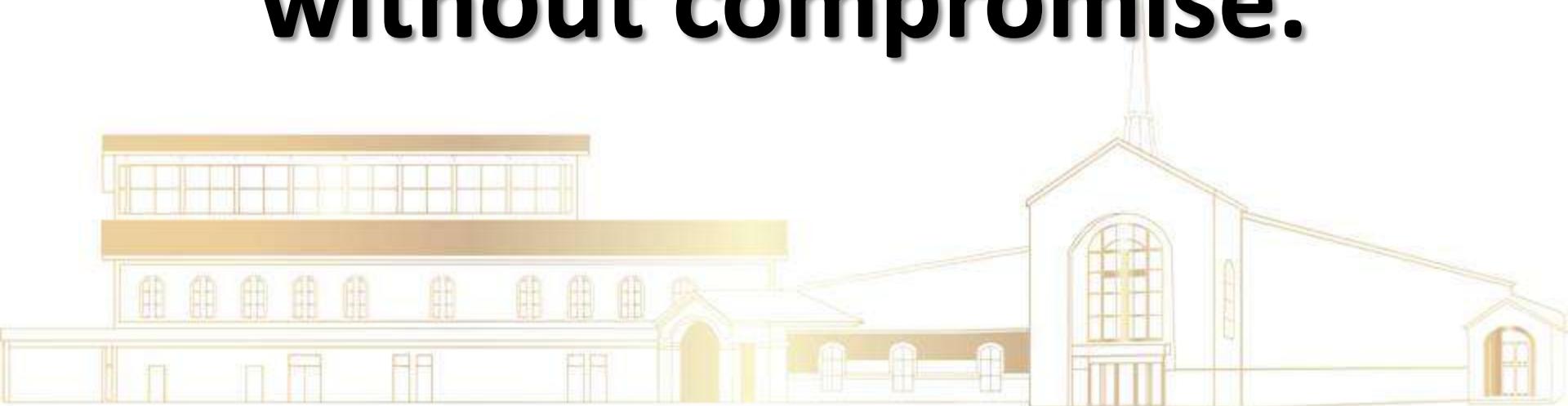
- A Creator God who has a Son
- One and only one Son whose name is Jesus
- The Holy Spirit distinct from God the Father and God the Son, yet just as much God.

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**When We Say Creator
God—we must also affirm
all of God's attributes
without compromise.**



God the Creator Is

- Sovereign
- Omnipotent, Omniscient, and Omnipresent Spirit Being
- Just, Holy, Righteous
- Kind, Compassionate, and Merciful
- Both Loving and Unloving
- Wise, Gracious, and Retributive

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When the God of your church
is always loving,
compassionate, tender,
merciful, forgiving, and
gracious you have abandoned
the God of the Gospel.

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The Same Chapter

That contains John 3:16
contains John 3:36

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John 3:36

- **He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life:**
- **and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.**



Revelation 22:12 (ESV)

- **“Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done.**

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**When God's attributes
bother us—we can't
change, modify, or ignore
them according to our
preference.**



The Faith

Includes Jesus'

- Virgin Birth
- Incarnation
- Sinless Life
- Death & Burial
- Vicarious Penal Substitutionary Atonement

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**Defining who Jesus is and
what Jesus accomplished
is critical to contending for
the faith of the gospel.**



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For Example
We might ask:

**Why was Jesus put to
death and what did he
accomplish?**

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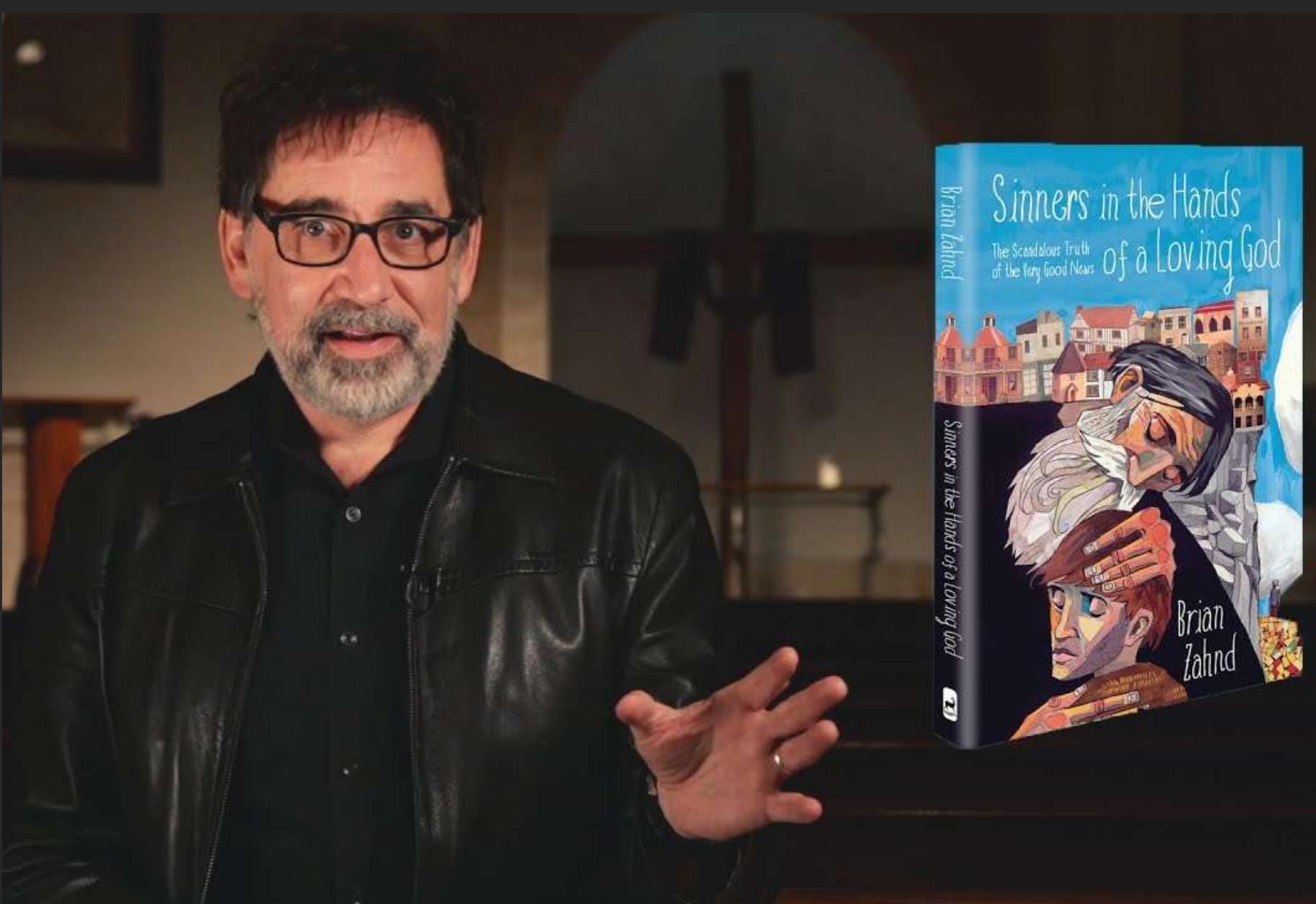


Was Jesus crucified because
the Jews rejected his
message of peace and love?

Or was Jesus crucified in
order to satisfy the wrath
holiness, and justice of God
against sin?

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Brian Zahnd



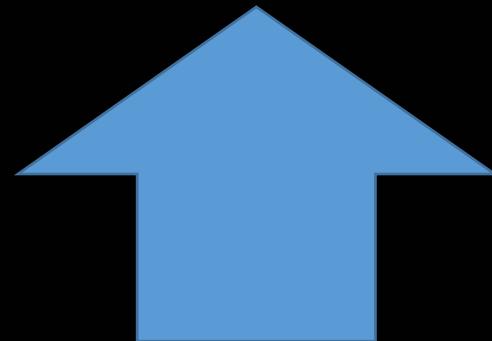
Word of Life Church, St. Joseph, MO

The Bible is clear, God did not kill Jesus. Jesus was offered as a sacrifice in that the Father was willing to send his Son into our sinful system in order to expose it as utterly sinful and provide us with another way. The death of Jesus was a sacrifice in that sense. But it was not a sacrifice to appease a wrathful deity or to provide payment for a penultimate god subordinate to Justice.

Brian Zahnd
Author & Pastor
Word of Life Church

Mark 10:45

- For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.





Acts 20:28

•Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, **which he hath purchased with his own blood.**



1 Corinthians 6:20

- For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

1 Corinthians 7:23

- Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.

Neither is the death of Jesus a kind of *quid pro quo* by which God gains the necessary capital to forgive sinners. **No! Jesus does not save us from God; Jesus reveals God!** Jesus does not provide God with the capacity to forgive; Jesus reveals God *as* forgiving love. An “economic model” of the cross just won’t work. It’s not as if God is saying, *“Look, I’d love to forgive you, but I’ve got to pay off Justice first, and, you know how she is, she’s a tough goddess, she requires due payment.”* This understanding of the cross begs the question of who exactly is in charge — the Father of Jesus or some abstract ideal called “Justice”?

Brian Zahnd

Author & Pastor
Word of Life Church



Romans 5:9

•Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him **from the wrath of God.**

Neither is the death of Jesus a kind of *quid pro quo* by which God gains the necessary capital to forgive sinners. **No!** Jesus does not save us from God; Jesus reveals God! **Jesus does not provide God with the capacity to forgive; Jesus reveals God as forgiving love.** An “economic model” of the cross just won’t work. It’s not as if God is saying, *“Look, I’d love to forgive you, but I’ve got to pay off Justice first, and, you know how she is, she’s a tough goddess, she requires due payment.”* This understanding of the cross begs the question of who exactly is in charge — the Father of Jesus or some abstract ideal called “Justice”?

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Author & Pastor
Word of Life Church



Ephesians 4:32

•And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as **God for Christ's sake** hath forgiven you.

Neither is the death of Jesus a kind of *quid pro quo* by which God gains the necessary capital to forgive sinners. **No!** Jesus does not save us from God; Jesus reveals God! Jesus does not provide God with the capacity to forgive; Jesus reveals God *as* forgiving

love. **An “economic model” of the cross just won’t work.**

It’s not as if God is saying, “*Look, I’d love to forgive you, but I’ve got to pay off Justice first, and, you know how she is, she’s a tough goddess, she requires due payment.*” This understanding of the cross begs the question of who exactly is in charge — the Father of Jesus or some abstract ideal called “Justice”?

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Author & Pastor
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Colossians 2:13-14

- And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

It's not as if God is saying, “Look, I'd love to forgive you, but I've got to pay off Justice first, and, you know how she is, she's a tough goddess, she requires due payment.” This understanding of the cross begs the question of who exactly is in charge — the Father of Jesus or some abstract ideal called “Justice”?



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Author & Pastor
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**If “Justice” can be an
abstract ideal and a tough
goddess why can’t love be
a goddess as well that
always gets her way?**





Deuteronomy 4:24

- **For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.**

Psalm 7:11

- **God is a righteous judge, and a God who feels indignation every day.**

Psalm 99:9

- **Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy hill; for the LORD our God *is* holy.**



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**If the death of the eternal Son of
God was for anything different
than the sufficient satisfaction of
the wrath of God for the sins of the
whole world you have a different
faith and a different gospel.**



For many in the liberal and progressive Church the necessity of satisfying the wrath of God is utterly repulsive to them. God unconditionally loves everyone just the way they are without judgment or potential punishment.

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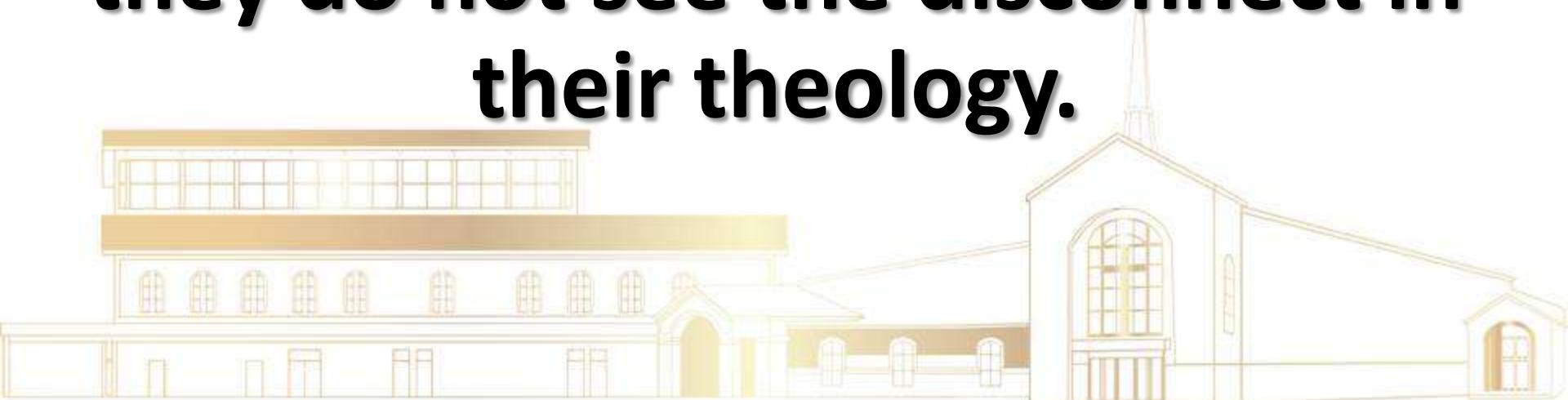


Galatians 1:6-7

- I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another [gospel];
- but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.

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Yet even the most liberal and progressive Christian demands justice when a crime against an innocent child is perpetrated. Yet they do not see the disconnect in their theology.



The Faith

Includes:

- Bodily resurrection
- Promise of a 2nd Coming
- The forgiveness of sin
- The gift of eternal life

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**Contending for
the faith of the gospel
also includes the means by
which salvation is
appropriated.**



How am I saved?

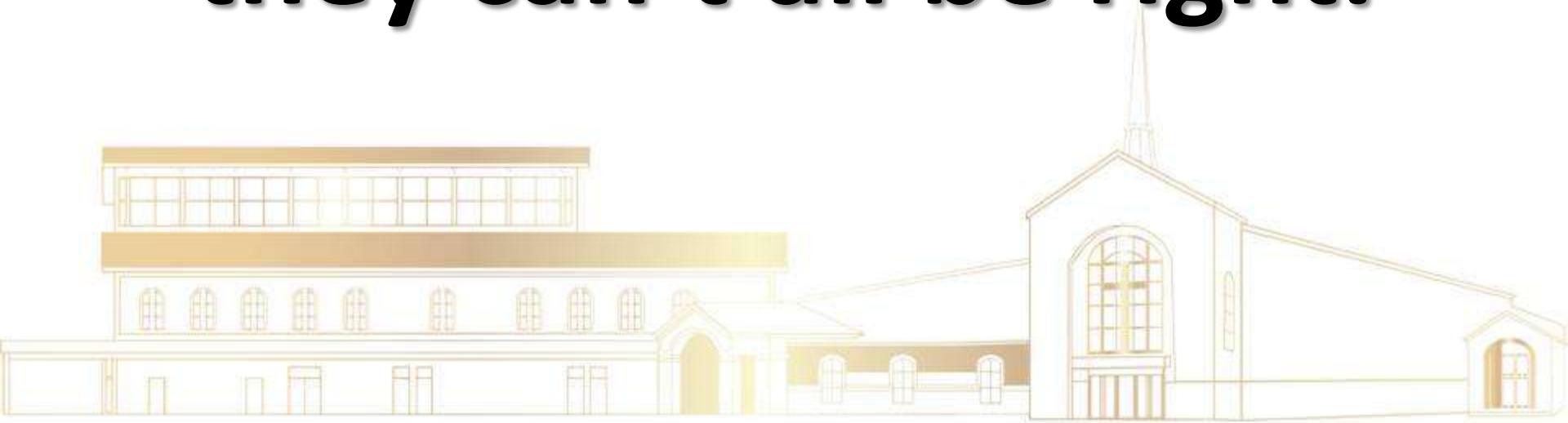
1. Keeping the Sacraments
2. Faith and faith alone in the Gospel
3. Repentance & Baptism
4. Striving to live out Jesus' teaching as authentically as possible

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**These 4 answers are so
radically different that
they can't all be right.**



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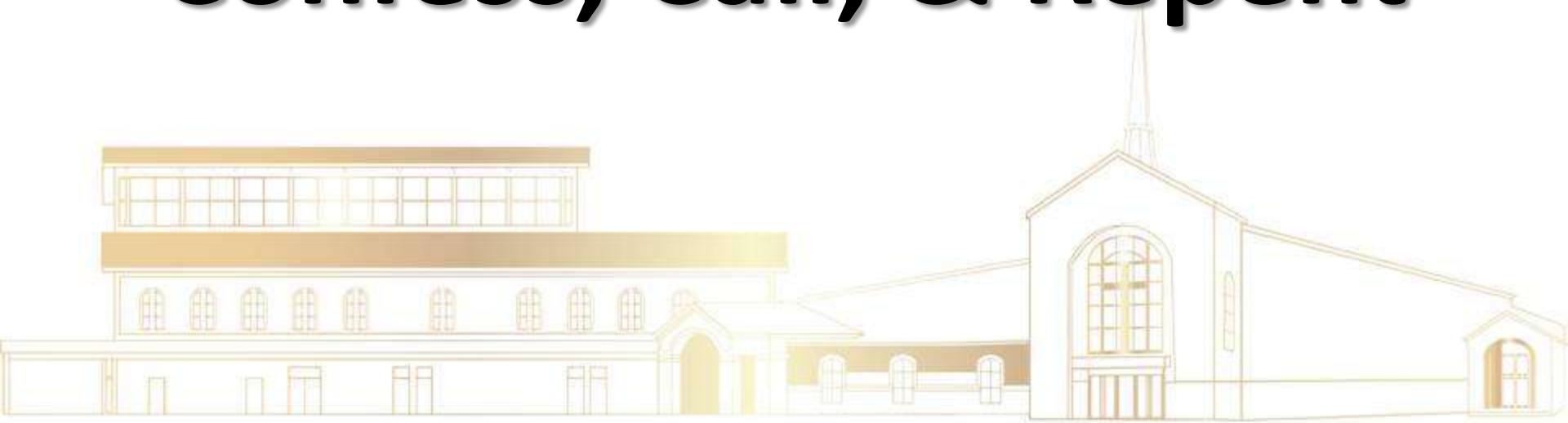
**The single litmus test I
consistently use to
determine if we are
likeminded is:
What must I do to be
saved?**

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Must I:
**Ask, Believe, Accept,
Confess, Call, & Repent**





John 3:16

- “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.



John 20:31

- But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.



Acts 16:31

- And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.



1 Corinthians 1:21

- **For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching**
- **to save them that believe.**



1 John 5:13

•These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life,

Repentance may be needed
to believe

And calling and confessing on
the Lord Jesus are always
evidences of

belief in Jesus as Savior

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What about Asking?

Asking is NEVER necessary because a promise of the forgiveness of sins and the gift eternal life has already been extended to anyone who believes the gospel.

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**Exclusivity and
inclusivity are both
found in the gospel.**

