

Most Christians agree there are two sides to the coin of Christian faith.

Orthodoxy (believing)	Orthopraxy (obeying)
imputed righteousness	applied righteousness
The King (doctrine)	The Kingdom (ethics)
The 1st Commandment (Love God)	The 2nd Commandment (Love neighbor)
The Incarnation (Jesus as example)	The Passion (Jesus as substitute)

Some Christians disagree as to how necessary one is to the other.



Galatians 5

“⁷ You were running well; who hindered you from obeying the truth? ⁸ This persuasion did not come from Him who calls you. ⁹ A little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough. ¹⁰ I have confidence in you in the Lord, that you will adopt no other view; but the one who is disturbing you shall bear his judgment, whoever he is. ¹¹ But I, brethren, if I still preach circumcision, why am I still persecuted? Then **the stumbling block of the cross** has been abolished. ¹² Would that those who are troubling you would even mutilate themselves.”

“⁷ You were running well; who hindered you from **obeying** the truth? ⁸ This **persuasion** did not come from Him who calls you.”

You were convinced of the truth of the Gospel and were moving ahead. Who talked you out of it. It certainly wasn't God.

- 1. Sound Doctrine is central to the Christian faith.**

Galatians 1

“⁶ I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; ⁷ which is really not another; only there are some who are **disturbing you**, and want to **distort the gospel** of Christ. ⁸ But even though we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we have preached to you, let him be accursed. ⁹ As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is **preaching to you a gospel contrary to that which you received**, let him be accursed.”

Ephesians 4

“¹¹ And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to **the building up of the body of Christ**; ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. ¹⁴ **As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming**; ¹⁵ but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in **all aspects into Him**, who is the head, even Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.”

**Key to wisdom #1
knowing how to listen
who to listen to
and listening.**

**Listening is hard to do
when you are talking
or waiting to talk.**

**Good listeners
use both their
head and heart.**

**Good listeners
ask good questions.**

**Good listeners give preferential
attention (not deference) to wise
leaders.**



“9 A little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough.”

Going back under the law may appear to be a small step but it is off a cliff, a fall from grace, & separation from Christ.

- ❑ **2. Sound Doctrine discerns what is major and what is minor.**

Galatians 5

“2 Behold I, Paul, say to you that if you receive circumcision, **Christ will be of no benefit to you.** . . . 4 You have been **severed from Christ**, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have **fallen from grace.**”

Hebrews 10

“26 For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, **there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,** 27 but a terrifying expectation of judgment.”

**Key to wisdom #2
discerning what is
a major issue
and what is not.**

Matthew 23:24

“You blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!”

“10 I have confidence **in you in the Lord**, that you will adopt no other view; but the one who is disturbing you shall bear his judgment, whoever he is.”

With God’s help I am convinced that in the end you will get it together and finish well, which I can’t say for the false teachers.

- ❑ **3. Sound Doctrine is central to the Spirit’s ministry.**

Key to wisdom #3 expecting the Spirit of God to work with and in us.



The three most common misunderstandings of the Spirit.

1. **Who has the Spirit?**
All who are "in Christ" by faith have his Spirit.
2. **What is the Spirit's main ministry?**
The Spirit is a messenger enhancing Christ (the image of God) in us.
3. **How does the Spirit effect our circumstances?**
The Spirit anoints the believer's response, not the circumstances.
4. **How does the Spirit relate to our efforts?**
The Spirit is a helper working with us from the inside.

Threefold ministry of the Spirit

Teacher Convicting of sin Calling to God Guiding to truth	Comforter Pointing us to Jesus righteousness Inner love, hope, and assurance	Enabler Power to show the image of God Outer service and signs
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An analogy



- The Holy Spirit is a Helper not a Surrogate. He works with us, not for us.
- Believers are soldiers not spectators in Spiritual warfare.

"11 But I, brethren, if I still preach circumcision, why am I still persecuted? Then the stumbling block of the cross has been abolished."

If I were supportive of this legalism that you are into why am I being persecuted for the Gospel of the Cross, because that is the stumbling block?

- 4. Sound Doctrine is going to offend some people.

1 Corinthians 1

"23 but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block, and to Gentiles foolishness, 24 but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men."

Responses to the Word of the Cross

- 1. Stumbling block (Jews)
- 2. Foolishness (Greeks)
- 3. Power and wisdom of God (Called)

**Key to wisdom #4
being willing to bear
the offense of the Cross.**

Too often our churches

- 1) refuse to offend in any way
or**
- 2) offend in all the wrong ways**

**but seldom
offend with the Gospel.**

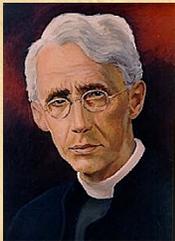
The offense of the Church

- ✓ **Mindlessness**
- ✓ **Arrogance**
- ✓ **Hypocrisy**
- ✓ **Naiveté**
- ✓ **Dogmatism**
- ✓ **Materialism**
- ✓ **Narcissism**
- ✓ **Racism**
- ✓ **Sexism**
- ✓ **Nationalism**

The offense of the Cross

- ✓ **Blood sacrifice** insults modern culture.
- ✓ **Wrath** insults God's character.
- ✓ **Atonement** insults my moral merit.
- ✓ **Baptism** insults my plans.
- ✓ **Exclusivism** insults my sense of fairness.

G. Campbell Morgan



**“Blood is
God’s stain
remover.”**