



1



2

COMMUNITY does not mean full CLARITY!

1 Corinthians 13

“11 When I was a child, I used to speak as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things. 12 For **now we see in a mirror dimly**, but then face to face; **now I know in part**, but then I will know fully just as it also have been fully known. 13 But **now faith, hope, love, abide** these three; but the greatest of these is love.”

*Some things will be UNCLEAR.
Faith, hope, & love should be CLEAR.*

**But what if “faith, hope, & love”
are not clear**



3

Are divisions sometimes necessary?

1 Corinthians 11

“17 But in giving this instruction, I do not praise you, because you come together not for the better but for the worse. 18 For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that divisions exist among you; and in part, I believe it. 19 **For there must also be factions among you, in order that those who are approved may have become evident among you.** 20 Therefore when you meet together, it is not to eat the Lord’s Supper, 21 for in your eating each one takes his own supper first; and one is hungry and another is drunk.”

**When the Corinthian church came together their behavior revealed that they were not really together.
They were a culture of class systems.**



4

Note how the Apostles addressed differences in matters of MAJOR DOCTRINES

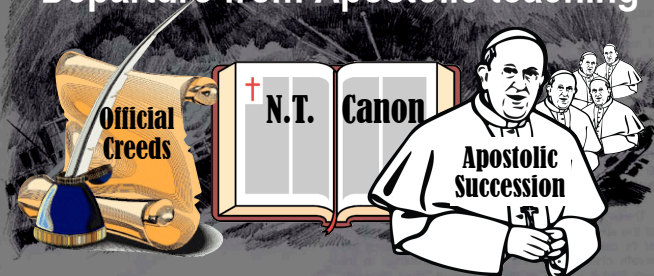
Acts 15

“1 And some men came down from Judea and began **teaching the brethren**, “**Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.**” 2 And when Paul and Barnabas had **great dissension and debate with them**, the brethren determined that Paul and Barnabas and certain others of them should **go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and elders concerning this issue.**

How are we to understand the relationship of the Old Covenant (O.C.) to the New Covenant (N.C.)?

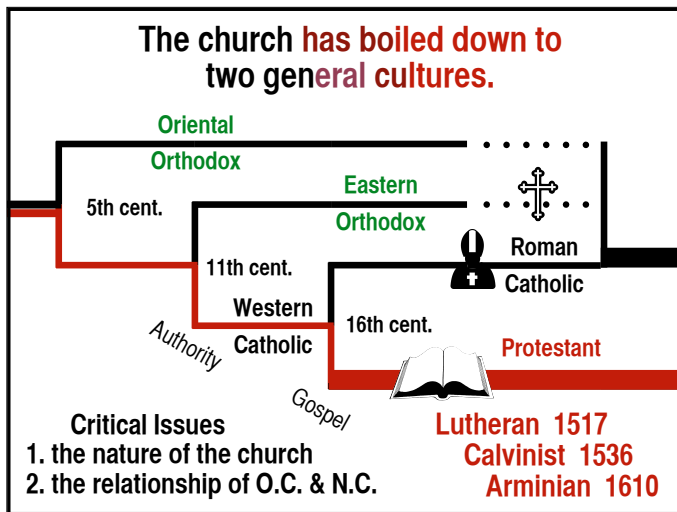
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**How did the early church define heresy?
Departure from Apostolic teaching**

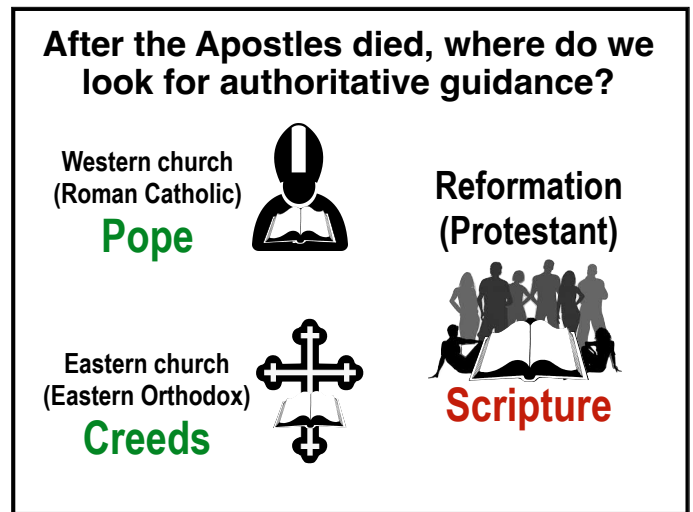


What is the best source of Apostolic teaching?

6



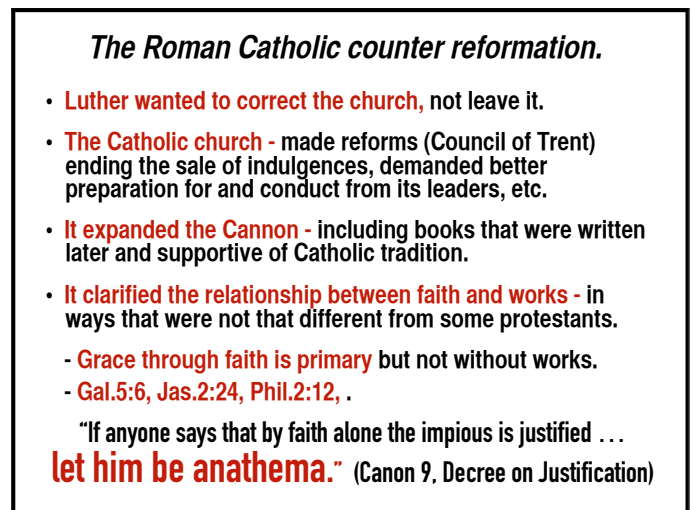
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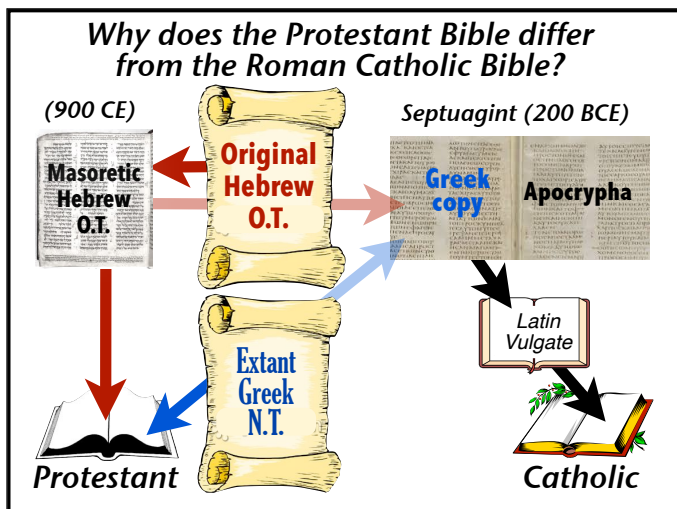
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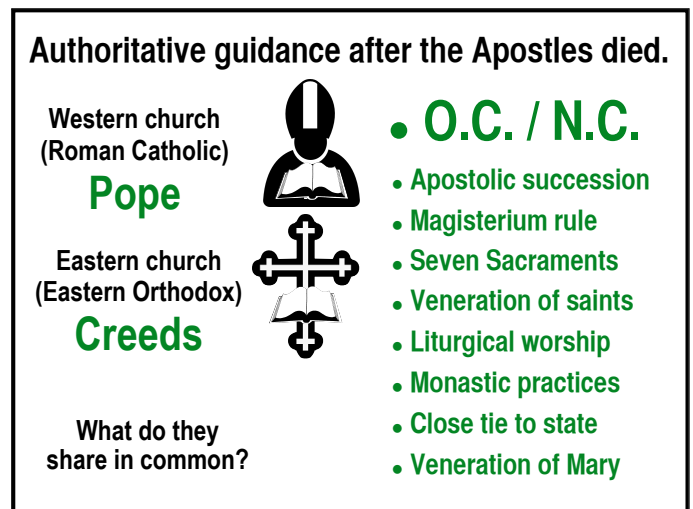
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10



11



12

The Protestant Reformation reverted to 1st cent. perspectives and sources.

Reformation (Protestant)



Scripture

Protestant
distinctives

• N.C. (- O.C.)

- Apostolic letters rule
- Priesthood of all believers
- Sacraments as signs
- Saint = all who are "In Christ"
- Spirit led worship
- Justification by faith alone
- Church / state separation
- One "Body Christ"

13

Architecture reflects theological priorities

The church is an INSTITUTION

- Eucharist centered
- Ritual altar
- Saints celebrated
- Glory of the institution
- Eucharist centered
- Papal leader
- Holy place

(Catholic)



The church is a COMMUNITY

- meeting place
- Pulpit centered
- People friendly
- Glory of the community
- Scripture centered
- Priesthood of all believers
- Utility use of space

(Protestant)



14

Three great imputations



Romans 5:19

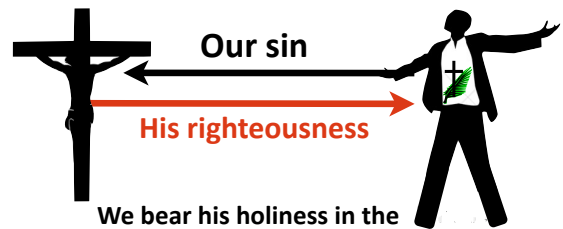
"For as through the **one man's disobedience the many were made sinners**, even so through the **obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.**"

15

The great exchange

2 Corinthians 5:21

"He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."



We bear his holiness in the same way and to the same extent that he bore our sin.

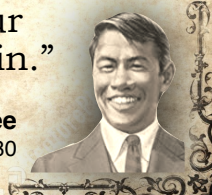
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"We think of the Christian life as a **'changed life'** but it is not that.

What God offers us is an **'exchanged life,'** a 'substituted life,' and Christ is our Substitute within."

Watchman Nee

"The Normal Christian Life" Page 180



17

The Law & Spirit
were not sent
to save us,

but to point us to
the Word & Way
of the Cross.



18

Protestant views of Faith & Works

Belief — Behavior
Pardon — Provision — Probation

	Change mind about Christ and self	Be willing to turn from all known sins at conversion	Be willing to keep on turning from all known sins	Turn from all known sins	Keep on turning from all known sins
Holiness					
Arminian					
Calvinistic					
Lutheran					

19

Romans 3:28

"For we maintain that a **man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law.**"

Romans 4

"³ For what does the Scripture say? **"And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness."** ⁴ Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. ⁵ But to the one who **does not work but believes** in him who justifies the ungodly, **his faith is counted as righteousness.**"

Ephesians 2

"⁸ For **by grace you have been saved through faith**; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; ⁹ not as a result of works, that no one should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

20

Galatians 2:16

"knowing that a **man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus**, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we may be justified by faith in Christ, and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law shall no flesh be justified."

Philippians 2

"⁸ ... I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish in order that I may gain Christ, ⁹ and may be found in Him, **not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith,**"

Romans 16

"²⁵ Now to Him who is able to establish you according to **my gospel** and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of **the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past**, ²⁶ but **now is manifested,**"

21

Two aspects of holiness



for me

The work of Christ



in & through me

- ✓ a **child** of God
- ✓ **fixed** position
- ✓ based on **faith**
- ✓ my **identity**
- ✓ a **disciple** of Christ
- ✓ **dynamic** posture
- ✓ based on **faithfulness**
- ✓ my **calling**

22

Two aspects of holiness



for me

The work of Christ



in & through me

What Christ has done **FOR** us
leads to BUT IS NOT BASED ON
what he can do **IN & THROUGH** us.

23

Positional truth

- ✓ It is a decree & not a felt experience.
- ✓ It is not progressive but complete.
- ✓ It is not related to human merit.
- ✓ It is not conditioned on moral reform.
- ✓ It fully satisfies the demands of a perfectly holy God.
- ✓ **It must be learned through teaching & received by faith.**

24

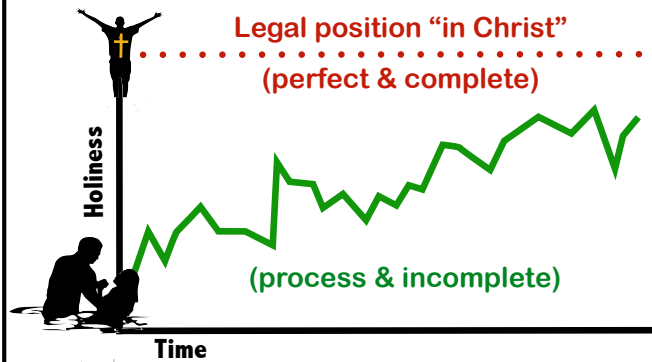
Why Positional truth is important

- ✓ It is **clearly illustrated** in both the Old and New Testaments.
- ✓ It is at the **heart** of the Gospel.
- ✓ It puts the attention on **what God has done in Christ** not on what we must do.
- ✓ It grounds our relationship with God to what is **finished and furnished** for us.
- ✓ We are not provisioned, or paroled, but **PARDONED**.



25

1. Our position in Christ



2. Our posture / performance in Life

26

Concerns with Positional truth

- ✓ It is not relational, personal, or felt.
- ✓ It permits moral irresponsibility.
- ✓ It places all the emphasis on legal justification.

If you get a scholarship to play ball, you can't expect to skip class and practice, and at the end pick up a diploma and the trophy.



27

The BOOKS (of human works) and the BOOK OF LIFE

Revelation 20

"11 And I saw a great white throne,...12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and **the books** were opened:

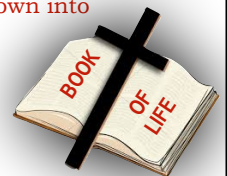
and another book was opened, which is **the book of life**;

and the dead were judged from the things which were written in **the books**, according to their deeds. And death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death,

15 and if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire."



BOOKS



28

The "better promises" of the New Covenant are justification by faith through the work of Christ **FOR us, not IN or THROUGH us.**

When the Bible speaks of the final judgment it is almost always on the basis of **our works, not our faith.**

How have Christians reconciled these seemingly contradictory messages?



29

Hard Questions



30