

"died to sin"], live any longer there-in?" If you were to study out verses 2-5 you would see that having been identified with Christ's death and his resurrection, believers have died to the dominating power of sin. Sin is no longer the master. Although it is true that believers still commit acts of sin and act out of character at times, they no longer live in sin, nor are they under sins power and control as they once were. To understand this doctrinal truth is to understand that a saved individual can not continue to live in sin. For one to say that he is a believer and yet unable to break away from the dominating power of sin is to say that he is not truly saved. Can you see the necessary connection between doctrine and conduct? Do you understand how important doctrine is? What are you hearing from the pulpit these days?

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## Free Grace Baptist Church

Preaching the Once-Revered Gospel of the  
Sovereign Grace of God

A Calvinistic Baptist Church

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(530) 742-7490

We meet on the Lord's Day for:

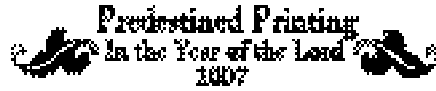
- Bible Study 10am
- Worship 11am

We meet on Wednesday nights for:

- Bible Study / Prayer 7pm

Our meetings take place at the:  
SYAR Conference Room  
1558 Starr Drive, Yuba City

Tract #5



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## Is Doctrine Important?

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Do you cringe when you hear doctrines like "election" and "pre-destination" being taught from the pulpit? Do you consider the doctrine of "justification by faith" something that only theologians discuss? I would venture a guess that many of you reading this article consider doctrine to be unimportant, boring, or even divisive. If this is what you believe, then to use the words of our Lord, "You do err, not knowing the scriptures."

Did the Apostle Paul consider doctrine to be unimportant? What sayeth the scripture?

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and is profitable for doctrine..." (2Tim. 3:16). Paul even exhorted Timothy, "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine." What was so important about sound doctrine? "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears (2Tim 4:2-3). Paul warned the Ephesian believers "...be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive" (Eph. 4:14). If you are not grounded in sound doctrine, you are liable to fall in with any wind of false doctrine that may come along.

Should believers' fellowship with those who pervert sound doctrine? Paul told the saints at Rome, "Now

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I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them (Rom. 16:17). Even the Apostle John weighs in under inspiration by writing, "Whosoever transgresses, and abides not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abides in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that bids him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds" (2Jn 1:9-11).

C.H. Spurgeon, the well known Baptist preacher of the 19th century wrote the following concerning doctrine, "It is doctrine...or faithful teaching, which brings men to Christ. Let those who despise doctrine mind what they are doing, for the doctrine of the cross is only foolishness to them who perish...If

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The problem that many professing Christians have with doctrine is that by learning doctrine or being aligned with doctrine they are ultimately held responsible for that doctrine. They don't want to acknowledge the necessary connection between doctrine and conduct. For instance, can a believer live in sin or be dominated by the reigning power of sin? The Apostle Paul said it was impossible when he wrote in Romans 6:1, "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin [or as the Greek has it

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