

*This is truly something that troubles me. Many churches today actually consider the word doctrine a dirty word. Paul tells us to defend sound doctrine, and the fact is someone is right and someone is wrong - and it is important. If you shoot an azimuth and off one degree then over a distance you will be way off. There is no half truth or small lie - It is either truth or a lie--no middle ground. This is why we have Joel Osteen. Why do men of courage not separate themselves with those who hold a different doctrine? It seems to fit with our society to just get along. Not trying to be mean, but I feel very strong in regards to doctrine and truth! I am hoping you are not saying that Mid-Acts is something other than a heresy...*

Joel Osteen is a false teacher (Ga 5:9).

The early church had doctrinal disputes (Ga 2:11) and we still have them today. Saints are encouraged to stand in the truth (Eph 6:14) and to clean up our own house (1 Pe 4:17) so that we are like-minded (1 Pe 3:8).

There is a debate in the church regarding Mid-Acts Dispensation. In the Book of Acts the apostle Paul becomes a chosen vessel of the Lord's to preach the gospel to the Gentiles (Ac 9:15). The fig tree is a symbol of the nation Israel (Hos 9:10, Jer. 24:5-8, 29:17, Joe 1:7, So 2:13). Israel was cut off (Lk 13:6-9) and the Gentiles (the body of Christ) was grafted in. In Romans 11 (vv. 15, 21-25, 30) we learn that Israel was cut off for their unbelief but God is able to graft them back in again. God will keep his promises to Israel. We await the fullness of the Gentiles. Then, God returns to his plan for Israel.

Believers may disagree about how history future will unfold. Augustine of Hippo said, "In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity." We must reject the teaching of those outside the kingdom of God who have placed themselves in the kingdom of the cults (2 Pe 2:1). Christian essentials include: the deity of Christ, salvation by God's grace and not by works, salvation through Jesus Christ alone, the resurrection of Christ, the Gospel, monotheism and the Holy Trinity.<sup>1</sup>

In our culture men are taught to be politically correct--which Dennis Prager calls--by definition a lie. Paul wrote: The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers (2 Co 4:4) and the apostle John wrote quoting Isaiah: He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts lest they should see with their eyes, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them (Jn 12:40).

We are in an uphill battle keeping our churches undefiled (Ac 5:3-5) and presenting a united front before the world (Mk 16:15). The world may lose hope but we cannot. It is our generation's time to stand in the gap for our Christian families, our churches, our nation and the nation Israel (Ps 128:6). "It is not incumbent upon you to complete the work, but neither are you at liberty to desist from it (Pirkei Avot)."

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<sup>1</sup> What are the essentials of the Christian faith? GotQuestions.org: <http://www.gotquestions.org/essentials-Christian-faith.html#ixzz3gY875bmS>.