

# COMMIT FAITHFULLY TO SOUND DOCTRINE



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Presented by

Victorious Army Revival Movement Church

No. 24 Olaoluwa Street, Araromi,  
Akesan, Lagos, Nigeria

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## **INTRODUCTION:**

We are living in a church age and culture when even famous religious figures ridicule true doctrine. Some even teach that doctrine brings division; therefore we should eliminate it and only emphasise love.

Scripture Focus: Rom. 16:17-20; I Tim. 4:1-5; 1 John 4:1-6

## **STUDY OUTLINE**

1. WHAT IS DOCTRINE?
2. TRUE AND FALSE DOCTRINE DIFFERENTIATED
3. TESTING OF DOCTRINE
4. TAKE HEED TO AVOID DECEPTION

## **1. WHAT IS DOCTRINE? (I Tim. 4:16)**

Doctrine is teaching, learning and instructions of Christ and the word of God upon which the believer's characters and conviction are built. Doctrine to the church is like what a foundation is to the building. It is the article of faith on which a believer's faith is anchored. The early believers understood perfectly the need to be grounded in the doctrine. We are told that our final salvation depends on our taking heed to the doctrine. Anyone who does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God (II John 1:9-11). In the last days, people will not endure sound doctrine but be given to fables (II Tim. 4:3-4). There will be doctrine of the devils (I Tim. 4:1). We must be established in the truth so as not to be carried away by every wind of doctrines (Eph. 4:14).

## 2. TRUE AND FALSE DOCTRINE DIFFERENTIATED

<b>False Doctrine</b>	<b>True Doctrine</b>
Exalts things and beings.	Exalts Jesus Christ.
Eclipses the message of the cross.	Emphasises the cross of Christ and His
Elevates man's self-worth, making	Extols God's greatness and humbles man,
Encourages personal ambitions and	Edicts seeking and doing the will of God.
Establishes certain man-made	Educates followers on God's requirements
Earthly issues such as social concern,	Eternal issues such as Christ's return,
Excuses worldly living and carnal lifestyles by preaching a non-	Exposes worldliness and wrongdoing by confronting sin head-on with renentance
Evades many Bible topics and focuses	Embraces the whole counsel of the Word
Engenders self-love, self-fulfilment,	Essentialises loving God above oneself,
Endeavours to excite man's emotions.	Endeavours to empower man's spirit.

### **3. TESTING OF DOCTRINE (1 John 4:1–6)**

(i) Printed Word Test: You must know the Scriptures.  
(Matthew 22:29)

(ii) Personal Anointing Test: You must compare the spirit of the message with the Holy Spirit that is within you. (1 John 2:27; 1 Corinthians 2:13)

(iii) Pentecostal Test: You must learn, through the power of the Spirit, to discern what spirit is propagating the doctrine.  
(1 Timothy 4:1)

(iv) Philosophy Test: You must learn to detect Biblical and worldly philosophy. (Colossians 2:8)

(v) Principle Test: You must learn the difference between godly and worldly principles. (Revelation 2:14)

(vi) Purpose Test: You must learn to recognise if a teaching is meaningless or if it has a divine or wholesome purpose.  
(Titus 1:9–14)

(vii) Purity Test: You must be able to determine what kind of fruit the teaching will produce in people's lives and hearts.  
(Titus 2:11–13)

(viii) Persons/Personality Test: You must be able to recognise if a teaching is centred around a person, group, or God —

whether it is personality-driven or Spirit-driven. (Jude 16; Galatians 2:4–6)

(ix) Practical Test: You must be able to see if a teaching is sensible and how applicable it is to everyday life. (1 Timothy 4:1–5)

(x) Profit Test: You must perceive how it will benefit a person, family, society, the Church, or the Kingdom of our Lord. (2 Timothy 2:14)

(xi) Prudence Test: You must be able to tell if it is man's wisdom or the wisdom of God. (1 Corinthians 1:17; 2:1–6)



## **4. TAKE HEED TO AVOID DECEPTION**

In the original Greek Bible, various words explain the meaning of deception:

- Apate – That which gives a false impression by appearance, statement, or influence.
- Dolos – Deception by a bait or snare, to be lured away by attraction.
- Dolion – Deception through vain words, to be led away by attraction.
- Apatao – Deception through persuasive speech, to be talked away by philosophy.
- Phrenapatao – Self-deception, to think one's self into error.
- Planao – To deliberately go astray.
- Planao (passive) – To wander astray unknowingly.
- Planao (active) – To deliberately lead others astray.



## **STUDY QUESTIONS**

1. What is doctrine?
2. Why is doctrine important to believers and the Church?
3. Identify the difference between false and true doctrines.
4. How can doctrines be tested?
5. Mention some cardinal doctrines in the Bible which the Church also stands for.
6. Which of these doctrines do you have difficulty with?


## **CONCLUSION**

In the early Church, not everyone was believed simply because they claimed to be preachers or apostles — they were tested based on their life and doctrine (Revelation 2:2). We too must be very careful, lest deceitful workers and their teachings overthrow our faith.

### About the Author

Pastor Isaac T. Adeola is a minister of the gospel with a passion for revival and sound doctrine. He serves as the Lead Pastor of Victorious Army Revival Movement, Lagos.

To invite or contact Pastor Isaac:

 +234 816 928 2908 | 