

Seeking the Truth from the Word of God

1. The individual believer is directed

A. to receive/hold to pure doctrine (positive)

John 8:31-32, "Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you **abide in My word**, you are My disciples indeed. ³²"And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Matthew 28:20, "...teaching them to observe **all things** that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age." Amen.

B. and they are to flee falsehood, which is fighting the good fight. (negative)

Romans 16:17, "Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them.

Titus 3:10, "Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition,

1 Timothy 6:3-14, "**If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words**, *even* the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, ⁴he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, ⁵useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a *means of* gain. **From such withdraw yourself....** ¹¹But you, O man of God, **flee these things** and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. ¹²**Fight the good fight of faith**, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³I urge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and *before* Christ Jesus who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate, ¹⁴that you **keep *this* commandment without spot, blameless** until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing...

2. How will the individual know? They are to check their pastor's actual doctrine (with Scripture), and the official documents of their congregation and synod.

Acts 17:11, "These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily *to find out* whether these things were so."

3. The Private Confession of faith should agree with the Public Confession of faith

James 5:12b, "But let your "Yes," be "Yes," and *your* "No," "No," lest you fall into judgment."

James 1:7-8, "For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸*he is* a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

Psalms 119:113, "I hate the double-minded, But I love Your law."

4. Those who remain with false teachers share in their evil work (Communion with/Fellowship with)

Revelation 18:4, "And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.

1 Timothy 5:22, "Do not lay hands on anyone hastily, nor share in other people's sins; keep yourself pure.

2 John 10-11, "If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; ¹¹for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.

5. An individual confessing the truth (private profession), should join an orthodox church body (public confession). It would be wrong to join a heterodox church body (public profession).

1 Corinthians 1:10, "Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all **speak the same thing**, and *that* there be no divisions among you, but *that* you be **perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment**.

1 Corinthians 11:18-19, "For first of all, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you, and in part I believe it. ¹⁹For there must also be factions among you, **that those who are approved may be recognized among you**.