

Understanding of Conflicts in the Church part 2

SPEAKING THE TRUTH IN LOVE, EPHESIANS 4:15-16

The Origin of Conflicts

- ▶ (Judges 17:6) **Opinions** without **humility** are very dangerous.
- ▶ A person lack of **discernment** (see Phil. 1:9-11) is the one that do not know the significance concerning the different kinds of opinions.
- ▶ We started with the differences between doctrines, principles, convictions, and preferences. Let's continue our study from here



The Core—Doctrines and Principles



- ▶ **Doctrine**—absolute truths that are **repeatedly taught** in the Bible, such as salvation by faith, Jesus is both God and man, etc. (2 Tim. 3:16-17)
- ▶ **Principles** are the **practical teachings** that **spring up** from doctrines, but itself may or may not have direct reference in the scripture, such as empathy and simplicity, etc.
- ▶ Together these are the core of our faith (Col. 1:23) we should stand firm on them.

Convictions and Preferences can change

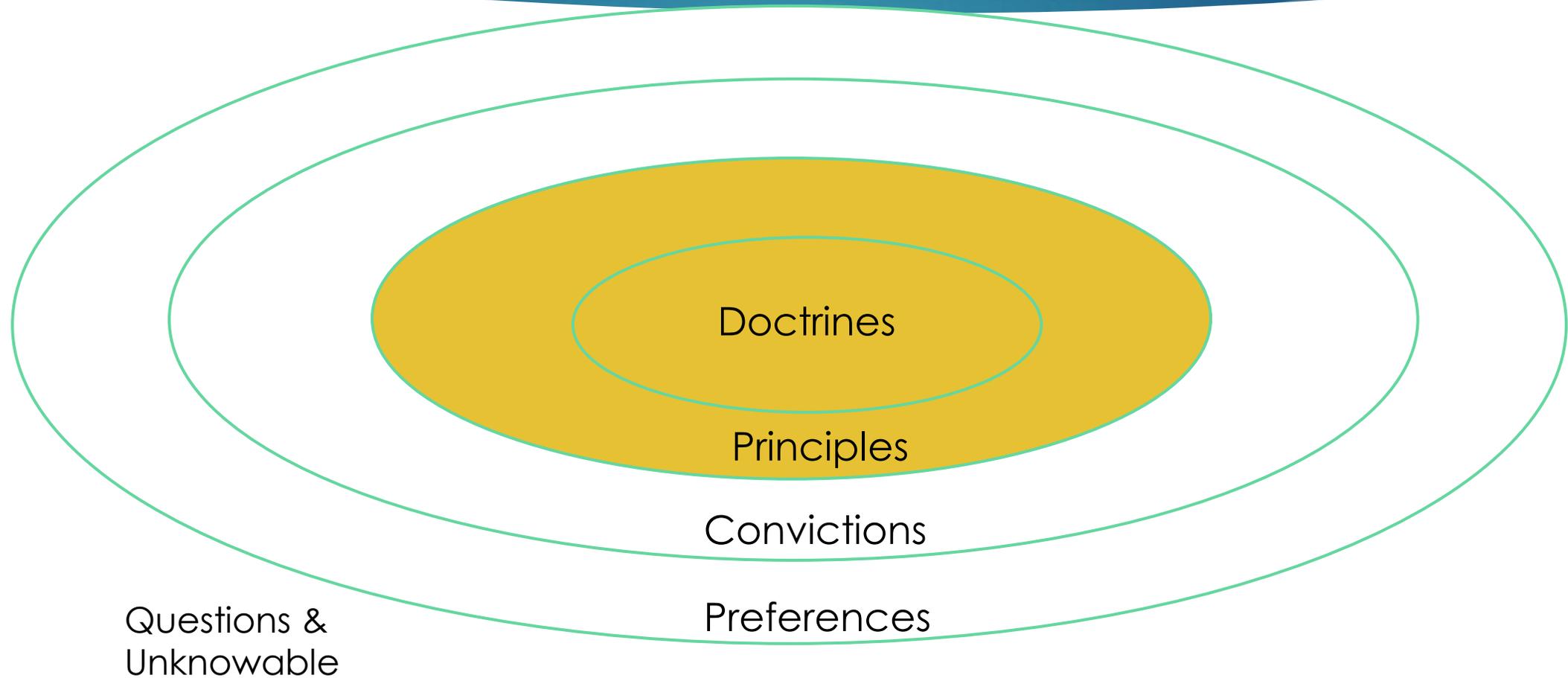
- ▶ **Convictions** may or may **not** directly mentioned in the Bible, they are spiritual opinions that change according to growth or culture (i.e. television, alcohol)
- ▶ **Preference** are simply the rest of all other opinions that has nothing to do with spiritual growth (i.e. Christmas traditions, chair or pew, color of the walls, etc.)



V.



Truth is in the Core



Respond with Discernment

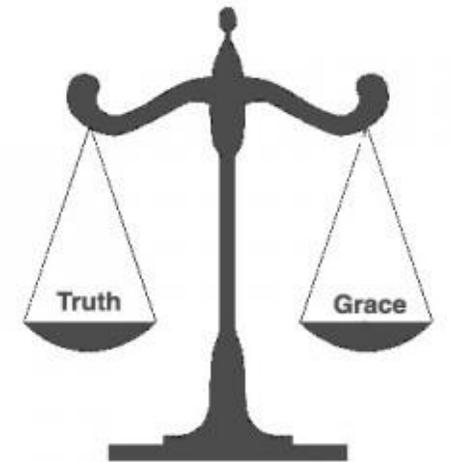
- ▶ **Teach** doctrines and Biblical principles (and defend too)
- ▶ **Share** convictions (when permission is given and earned)
- ▶ **Keep** your preferences to yourself (until you are asked 😊)
- ▶ Nevertheless, conflicts may still spring up between people, what should we do then?



Let us Join Together



- ▶ (Eph. 4:16) we are called to “join” together, just **give up** or walk away should never be the first option. Thankfully God has given us a plan. (Matt. 18:15-17)
- ▶ We should always start with 2 persons in a one on one conversation. **Truth** and **grace** (John 1:14, 17) must be in balance—growing toward brotherly kindness (Col. 3:12-14)



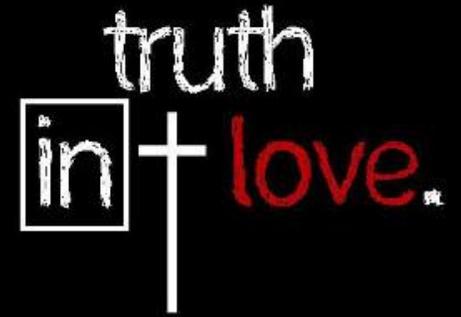
Bring Before Others



- ▶ Only when the conversation does not resolve the conflict, we then bring the matter **before witnesses** and the church leaders.
- ▶ The opposite of course is **gossiping** and being **busybodies**, (1 Thes. 5:13; 2 Cor. 12:20; Rom. 1:29) no matter it is based on resentment or revenge, such actions cannot build up others.



The Mature Path to Deeper Relationships



- ▶ (Eph. 4:15) ***speaking the truth in love***. This requires 2 elements of growth:
- ▶ First, we must grow in **truth**—knowing God’s teachings and how we should practice them.
- ▶ Second, we must also grow in **love**, as God loves us.
- ▶ As we grow in both truth and love, we grow in **maturity** in our relationships with others, and also practically fulfilling the greatest commandment.

What we have learned...

GRACE



TRUTH

- ▶ Doctrines, principles, convictions, preferences...can you tell the difference? (**truth**) (see 2 Tim. 3:16-17)
- ▶ Why do you want to resolve the conflict? Out of revenge (getting even)? Want to feel better (escape from pain)? Or you want to glorify God and bring that person closer to God? (**grace and love**) (see Col. 3:12-15)
- ▶ As we **grow in truth and love**, we grow in our relationships with others, and ultimately our relationship with God.
- ▶ Are you following the path in **Matt. 18** in dealing with conflicts?
- ▶ Did you catch yourselves **gossiping** these days?