



What Is Essential Christian D-O-C-T-R-I-N-E? (1)

1 Timothy 4:16 (NASB)

¹⁶“Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching (“**didaskalia**” doctrine); persevere in these things, for as you do this you will ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you.”

The importance of essential Christian doctrine can hardly be overstated. **First**, these are the very doctrines that form the line of demarcation between the kingdom of Christ and the kingdom of the cults. While we may debate nonessentials without dividing over them, when it comes to essential Christian doctrine there must be unity. Hence, the maxim: *In essentials unity, nonessentials liberty, and in all things charity.*

Furthermore, essential Christian doctrine is the North Star by which the course of Christianity is set. Just as the North Star is an unchanging reference point by which sailors safely guided their ships, so essential Christian doctrine has safely guided the church through the doctrinal storms that have sought to sink it. Shooting stars light the sky for a moment; following them, however, leads to shipwreck.

I am so passionate about inscribing the essentials on the tablet of your heart that I've organized them around the acronym **D-O-C-T-R-I-N-E**:

Deity of Christ
Original sin
Canon
Trinity
Resurrection
Incarnation
New creation
Eschatology

What Is Essential Christian D-O-C-T-R-I-N-E? (2)

1 Timothy 4:16 (NASB)

¹⁶“Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching (“**didaskalia**” doctrine); persevere in these things, for as you do this you will ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you.”

DEITY OF CHRIST

Original sin
Canon
Trinity
Resurrection

Incarnation
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Eschatology



Essential Christian doctrine is the foundation on which the gospel of Jesus Christ rests. From His deity to the eschatological certainty that He will appear a second time to judge the living and the dead, essential Christian doctrine is foundational to the gospel. All other religions **compromise, confuse, or contradict** these essentials.

Muslims, for example, dogmatically denounce the doctrine of Christ's unique deity as the unforgivable sin of *shirk*. They readily affirm the sinlessness of Christ, but they adamantly deny His sacrifice upon the cross and His subsequent resurrection as the only hope of salvation.

As noted previously, I am so passionate about inscribing the essentials on the tablet of your heart that I've organized them around the acronym **D-O-C-T-R-I-N-E**. It is my prayer that you will become so familiar with essential Christian doctrine that when a counterfeit looms on the horizon you will know it instantaneously. Over the next few teachings, my class will unpack each of the essential tenets of the historic Christian faith, beginning today with the Deity of Christ.

Deity of Christ. The biblical witness is clear and convincing that Jesus Christ is the eternal Creator God ([John 1](#); [Colossians 1](#); [Hebrews 1](#); [Revelation 1](#)).

Throughout His earthly ministry, Jesus claimed to be God in word and deed ([Mark 14:61–62](#); [John 5:18, 20](#); [John 8:58](#); [John 10:30–33](#)).

[Mark 14:61-62 \(NASB\)](#)

⁶¹ But He kept silent and did not answer. Again, the high priest was questioning Him, and saying to Him, “Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed *One*?”

⁶² And Jesus said, “I am; and you shall see THE SON OF MAN SITTING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF POWER, and COMING WITH THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN.”

[John 5:18 \(NASB\)](#)

¹⁸ For this reason therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.

[John 5:20 \(NASB\)](#)

²⁰ For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself is doing; and the Father will show Him greater works than these, so that you will marvel.

[John 8:58 \(NASB\)](#)

⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am.”

[John 10:30-33 \(NASB\)](#)

³⁰ “I and the Father are one.”

³¹ The Jews picked up stones again to stone Him.

³² Jesus answered them, “I showed you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you stoning Me?”

³³ The Jews answered Him, “For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy; and because You, being a man, make Yourself out to be God.”



Throughout His earthly ministry, Jesus claimed to be God and vindicated His claims to deity by living a sinless life ([John 8:46](#); [2 Corinthians 5:21](#); [Hebrews 4:15](#); [1 John 3:5](#); [1 Peter 2:22](#)).

[John 8:46 \(NASB\)](#)

⁴⁶ “Which one of you convicts Me of sin? If I speak truth, why do you not believe Me?”

[2 Corinthians 5:21 \(NASB\)](#)

²¹ He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

[Hebrews 4:15 \(NASB\)](#)

¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as *we are*, yet without sin.

[1 John 3:5 \(NASB\)](#)

⁵ You know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin.

[1 Peter 2:22 \(NASB\)](#)

²² WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH;

Throughout His earthly ministry, Jesus claimed to be God by manifesting His power: over nature ([Mark 4:39](#)),

[Mark 4:39 \(NASB\)](#)

³⁹ And He got up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Hush, be still.” And the wind died down and it became perfectly calm.

over fallen angels ([Luke 4:35](#)),

[Luke 4:35 \(NASB\)](#)

³⁵ But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be quiet and come out of him!” And when the demon had thrown him down in the midst of *the people*, he came out of him without doing him any harm.

over sickness ([Matthew 4:23](#)), and

[Matthew 4:23 \(NASB\)](#)

²³ Jesus was going throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people.

even over death itself ([John 4:50](#); [John 11:43–44](#); [1 Corinthians 15](#)),

[John 4:50 \(NASB\)](#)

⁵⁰ Jesus said to him, “Go; your son lives.” The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and started off.

[John 11:43-44 \(NASB\)](#)

⁴³ When He had said these things, He cried out with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come forth.”

⁴⁴ The man who had died came forth, bound hand and foot with wrappings, and his face was wrapped around with a cloth. Jesus *said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”



Throughout His earthly ministry, Jesus claimed to be God by manifesting judgment on Jerusalem through the destruction of the Temple that occurred in AD 70 ([Matthew 24:1-2, 32-35](#)).

[Matthew 24:1-2 \(NASB\)](#)

¹ Jesus came out from the temple and was going away when His disciples came up to point out the temple buildings to Him.

² And He said to them, “Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here will be left upon another, which will not be torn down.”

[Matthew 23:32-35 \(NASB\)](#)

³² “Fill up, then, the measure *of the guilt* of your fathers.

³³ You serpents, you brood of vipers, how will you escape the sentence of hell?

³⁴ Therefore, behold, I am sending you prophets and wise men and scribes; some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues, and persecute from city to city,

³⁵ so that upon you may fall *the guilt* of all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar.

God: “I am the Alpha and the Omega” ([Revelation 1:8](#))

Christ: “I am the First and the Last” ([Revelation 1:17](#))

God: “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End” ([Revelation 21:6](#))

Christ: “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End” ([Revelation 22:13](#))