

01-19-14

Series: [The Anatomy of a Church](#)

The Anatomy of a Church (6)

Pastor Eddie Ildefonso

[Acts 20:28](#)

(Continuation from 01/12/14)

[Hold] fast to the head, from whom the entire body, being supplied and held together by the joints and ligaments, grows with a growth which is from God.

[Colossians 2:19; NASB](#)

He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead; so that He Himself might come to have first place in everything.

[Colossians 1:18; NASB](#)

THE ABSOLUTE AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE

A second nonnegotiable truth that makes up the skeleton of the church is the absolute authority of Scripture. The Bible is constantly under attack, even from within the professing church. I recently read an article by a seminary professor who argued that Christians should not view homosexual behavior as sinful. If a person advocates that view, he must be disregarding the Bible. How inconsistent for a seminary professor to deny the Bible when he is training men to minister the Word of God! But that is happening today. The Bible is being attacked head-on.

I believe charismatics attack the Bible when they add their visions and revelations to it. It is a subtle and often unintentional attack, but it is an attack just the same. They say that Jesus told them this and that God told them that. They are undermining the Bible when they do not regard it as the single authority. Those who believe God speaks regularly with special messages for individual Christians trivialize His Word. God reveals Himself primarily through the pages of Scripture, and that written revelation must be held up as the absolute authority.

One of the worst assaults on God's Word comes from people who say they believe the Bible but don't know what it teaches. That is the subtlest kind of attack. People all across America say they believe the Bible from cover to cover but don't know one paragraph of it. How can they believe what they don't know?

Jesus said, "**Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God**" ([Matthew 4:4](#)).

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

⁴But He answered and said, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.'"

If we are fed by every word that comes out of the mouth of God, we ought to study every word. Today, preachers have lost sight of that.

A pastor once told me, "I pastor a church for only two years, and then I leave."

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I said, “Have you been doing that for a long time?”

“Yes, I spend two years here, two years there, and two years in another place.”

“Why?” I asked.

“I have fifty–two sermons. I preach each one twice, and then I leave.”

I said, “Why don’t you teach the whole counsel of God ([Acts 20:27](#))?”

He answered, “I don’t teach all of it, just the parts I think are important.” But every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God is important!

[Acts 20:27 \(NASB\)](#)

²⁷ “**For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God.**”

SOUND DOCTRINE

The third thing that a church must have as a part of its skeleton is sound doctrine. If you have a high view of God and are committed to Him, you must adhere to what His Word teaches. The teachings of God’s Word make up sound doctrine.

Many Christians today are vague about doctrine. Many pastors offer “**sermonettes for Christianettes**”—little sermons that are nice and interesting. Sometimes they make you feel warm, fuzzy, sad, or excited. But seldom do we hear doctrine taught or discussed.

Very few preachers explain the truths about **God, life, death, heaven, hell, man, sin, Christ, angels, the Holy Spirit, the position of the believer, the flesh, or the world**. We need truths that we can hold onto. You need to read a text, find out what it says and means, draw out a divine truth, and plant that truth in the minds of people by repeating it. I picked up that style of preaching when I graduated from high school.

My pastor gave me a Bible and wrote a note in it encouraging me to read [1](#) and [2 Timothy](#). I did that, and Paul’s message to Timothy kept running through my mind: “**In pointing out these things to the brethren, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, constantly nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound doctrine which you have been following**” ([1 Timothy 4:6 \(NASB\)](#); cf. [1 Timothy 1:3, 10](#); [1 Timothy 4:13, 16](#)).

[1 Timothy 1:3 \(NASB\)](#)

³ As I urged you upon my departure for Macedonia, remain on at Ephesus so that you may instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrines,

[1 Timothy 1:10 \(NASB\)](#)

¹⁰ and immoral men and homosexuals and kidnappers and liars and perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound teaching,

[1 Timothy 4:13 \(NASB\)](#)

¹³ Until I come, give attention to the *public* reading of *Scripture*, to exhortation and teaching.

[1 Timothy 4:16 \(NASB\)](#)

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