

TRUE

the letter of 1st John



#4 True Doctrine [1 John 2:18-29]

"What We Believe About God Is The Most Important Thing About Us"
~ AW Tozer~

- Belief Is Only As Good As The OBJECT In Which We Place Our Belief In.

"It Is Not Enough For A Believer To Walk In The Light And To Walk In Love We Must Also Walk In Truth" ~Warren Wiersbe~

The Conflict Between Truth & Error

The Primary Battlefield For Truth Is In The MIND

Children, it is the last hour [ἔσχατος ὥρα], and as you have heard that antichrist [ἀντίχριστος] is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour. 1 John 2:18

"the last hour" [ἔσχατος ὥρα]

- Christians Have Always Been Living In The LAST Hour

"antichrist" [ἀντίχριστος]

- The SPIRIT In The Worlds That Opposes Or Denies The Person Of Jesus Christ
- FALSE Teachers Who Embody This Spirit.

Three Ways To Identify Teachers of False Doctrine

#1. They DEPART From The Fellowship of The Church
They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us. 1 John 2:19(ESV)

If we love our brothers and sisters who are believers,^[a] it proves that we have passed from death to life. 1 John 3:14 (NLT)

"Not Every One Who Belongs To The Church Is Necessarily A True Christian"
~ The Parable of The Wheat & Tares~
[Matthew 13:23-30]

#2. They DENY The Central Doctrines Of The Faith
But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge. I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and because no lie is of the truth. ²² Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son. 1 John 2:20-22

#3.They Try To DECEIVE The Faithful

I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive/seduce [πλανᾶω] you. But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in him. 1 John 2:26-27

- The Person, Nature And Teaching Of JESUS Should Be The Litmus Test Of True Doctrine

Life Group Discussion Questions

<https://waipunachapel.churchcenter.com/groups/life-groups>

- *"It is not enough for a believer to walk in the light and to walk in love, we must also walk in truth"* What does this statement mean to you?
- Why is the object of our belief so important?
- Why is it important for Christians to know what they believe and why they believe it?

Read Matthew 13:23-30

- What does this teach us about the makeup of the church?

Read 1 John 2:18-29

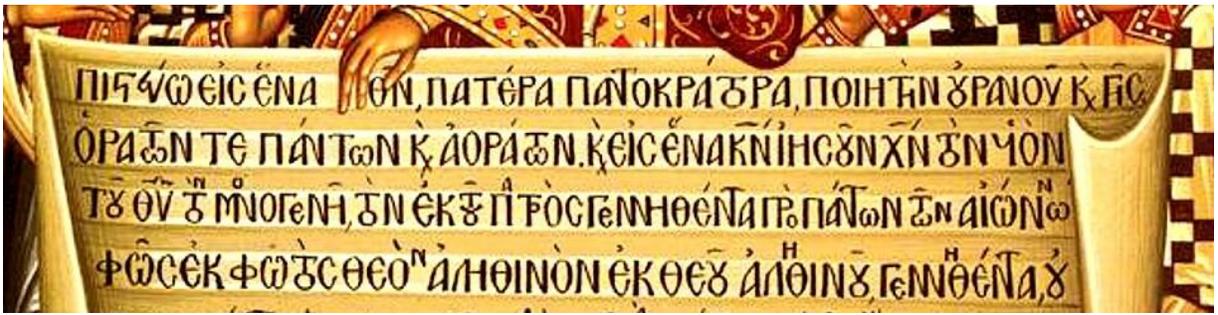
- What has been your understanding of the biblical phrase "last days/hour"?
[see Acts 2:17, 2 Timothy 3:1, Hebrews 1:2, 2 Peter 3:3]
- What has been your understanding of antichrist?
[see 1 John 2:18, 1 John 2:22, 1 John 4:3, 2 John 1:7]
- Why do you think the desire of Christians to be in fellowship with other Christians is evidence of the true Christian life?
- What beliefs do all true Christians have in common?
- Discuss the quote from Augustine; *"In the essential things- unity. In the no-essential things – liberty. In all things- charity"*
- At the center of true Christian doctrine is the statement; "Jesus Christ is God come in the flesh" What is essential about each part of this truth claim?
- Have you experienced the Holy Spirit guiding you in truth? [see vs 27]
If yes explain.
- What are our greatest defenses as Christians against false doctrine?
- Pray with and for each other

Sources

Warren Wiersbe – "Be Real- Turning From Hypocrisy To Truth" davidccook.org

William Barclay- "The Letters of John & Jude" www.wjkbooks.com

Send questions or Feedback to shaun@waipunachapel.com



THE APOSTLES' CREED [100AD]

The Apostles' creed is the oldest statement of faith in the Christian church, written sometime in the second century AD. The creed defines core Christian beliefs about God, Jesus, the church, salvation, and other theological topics. By the fourth century, it was widely believed that each of the twelve apostles contributed one article to the creed under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Unlike the Nicene Creed from the fourth century, the Apostles' Creed doesn't explicitly state the nature of Jesus' divinity or define the relationship between members of the Trinity, which left room for heresies to slip into Christian churches. But it did play an important role in understanding baptism in the early church, and helped Christians establish orthodoxy.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of
the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy universal Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

THE NICENE CREED [325AD]

This is one of the most famous and influential creeds in the history of the church. It was the first creed to obtain universal authority in the church, and is accepted by all three of the major branches of Christianity; Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox and Protestant. It improved the language of the Apostles' Creed by including more specific statements about the divinity of Christ and the Holy Spirit. The purpose of a creed is to provide a doctrinal statement of correct belief.

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God;
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made.**

**Who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,
and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;**

**He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures;
and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father;
and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom
shall have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life;
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified;
who spoke by the prophets.**

**And I believe in one holy universal and apostolic Church.
I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of
the dead, and the life of the world to come.
Amen.**