

The Original Doctrine

I John 2:24 ... **If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father.**

This verse makes our continuing in the Son and Father (our salvation) contingent upon us abiding in the doctrine taught "from the beginning." We also see how necessary that is from:

- I Cor 1:10 Now I beseech you ... that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.
- Matt 15:9 But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.
- Catholic Facts, pg.27, Bishop Noll: ... if it be not identical in belief, in government etc., with the primitive Church, then it is not the Church of Christ.
- Our Faith and the Facts, pg.375, "The Reverend C.F. Donovan": Christianity ... is no longer Christianity if it be changed. Christianity added to, or Christianity taken from, is not the Christianity of Christ.

First century examples of deviations from the beginning/original doctrine:

- I Tim 4:1-3 ... some shall depart from the faith ... Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.
- II Tim 2:17-18 And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; Who concerning the truth have erred, saying the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some

What were the consequences of their leaving the beginning/original doctrine?

Modern day examples ...

Homosexuality - I Cor 6:9-10 Do you not know ... the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. (NKJV)

- The Episcopal Church approved its first openly gay bishop ... the Rev. Gene Robinson. ... Robinson ... replied ... "We have many times departed from ... Scripture." ... Robinson cited the examples of ordaining women priests and accepting divorce in the church as departures ... **"Just simply saying it departs from ... Scripture does not necessarily make it wrong."** (Birmingham News, Aug 6, 2003)

What does I John 2:24 say about those who have changed on Homosexuality?

Communion "under both kinds" - I Cor 11:26,28 For as often as ye eat this bread, & drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come. ...let a man examine himself, & so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.

- Catholic Encyclopedia, IV,176: Communion under both kinds was the prevailing usage in Apostolic Times
- Catholic Dictionary Popes Leo & Gelasius emphatically condemned persons who abstained from the chalice.
- Lives and Times of the Roman Pontiffs, I, pg.111: Communion under both kinds ... abolished in 1416, by the Council of Constance
- Council of Constance, 6-15-1415: Condemnation of communion under both kinds ... no priest, under pain of excommunication, may communicate the people under the forms of both bread and wine

What does I John 2:24 say about those who have changed on the Communion Elements?

Frequency of communion - Acts 20:7 And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.

- Legislation on the Sacraments in the New Code of Canon Law, Ayrinhac: **In the beginning Mass was celebrated only once a week, then three or four times, and finally, in the fifth or sixth century, every day.**

What does I John 2:24 say about those who have changed on the Frequency Of Communion?

Infant baptism - Acts 8:36-37 **And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest ...**

- **The baptism of young children is to be retained in the church** (Methodist Discipline, 1956, pg.31)

What does I John 2:24 say about those who have changed on Infant Baptism?

Action of baptism - Rom 6:4 **Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.**

- Adult Catechism, pages 56-57: **Baptism used to be given by placing the person to be baptized completely in the water: it was done in this way in the Catholic Church for 1200 years.**
- Our Faith and the Facts, page 399: **The church at one time practiced immersion. This was up to the thirteenth century. The Council of Ravenna, in 1311, changed the form from immersion to pouring.**
- **Presbyterians believe... babies ... receive baptism by sprinkling of water ...** (Westminster Confession)

What does I John 2:24 say about those who have changed and now Sprinkle For Baptism?

Purpose for baptism -

- Mark 16:16 **He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be d-a-m-n-e-d.**
- Acts 2:38 **Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.**
- Acts 22:16 **... arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.**
- I Peter 3:21 **... baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:**
- **... in the Apostolic age when there was but 1 Lord, 1 faith, and 1 baptism, and no differing denominations existed, the baptism of a convert ... constituted him a member of the church In that sense ... 'baptism was the door into the church.' Now, it is different.** (Standard Manual for Baptist Churches, Hiscox)
- **The Scriptures teach that the sinner obtains remission of his sins in answer to prayer before baptism** (Ben M. Bogard, noted Missionary Baptist debater, Bogard-Warlick Debate, pg.81)

What does I John 2:24 say about those who have changed on Baptism Being Necessary To Salvation?

Salvation by "faith only" - James 2:24 **Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.**

- **Wherefore, that we are justified by faith, only, is a most wholesome doctrine, and very full of comfort.** (Article IX in The Articles of Religion of the Methodist Church)
- **We believe the Scriptures teach ... the gift of eternal life is bestowed ... solely through faith in Christ** (Standard Manual for Baptist Churches)

What does I John 2:24 say about those who have changed on Salvation By Faith Only?

Acts 18:8 **And Crispus ... believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized.** After this happened, what was Crispus - was he Baptist, Methodist, Catholic, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Pentecostal, Episcopal? Those churches didn't even exist back then, did they? What church was Crispus a member of? Shouldn't we do/be just like Crispus? If we become a member of a church different than the one Crispus became a member of, are we remaining in the teaching heard from the beginning?

Either I John 2:24 teaches we have to adhere to the **doctrine at the beginning** to be saved or it doesn't.

- Gal 1:9 **if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.**
- II John 9 **Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.**