

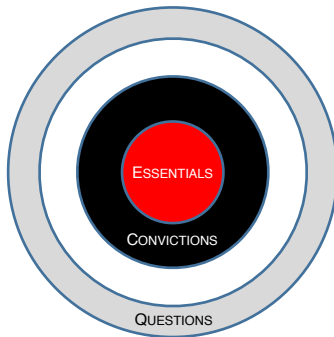
Choosing Trustworthy Resources by Nika Spaulding

What is orthodoxy?

Conforming to an established doctrine...in other words, right thinking

Orthodoxy (right thinking) → Orthopraxy (right living)

Theological Concentric Circles



Essentials: Doctrines Christians must not reject

- Salvation by Grace
- Sinfulness of man
- Hypostatic Union (fully God/fully man)
- Atonement
- Resurrection
- Trinity
- Restoration

Non-Essentials:

- **Convictions:** Doctrines that are extremely important but not essential. Differences over convictions are important enough to cause someone to leave a local body over.
 - Inerrancy of Scripture
 - Sexual Ethic
 - View of the Sacraments
- **Opinions:** Views that can be held, even strongly held, but should not cause division within the local body.
 - End Times Views
 - Creation vs Evolution
 - Gifts of the Spirit
- **Questions:** Views that do not have a clear answer and should never cause division.
 - Style—Clothes, Worship, Doughnuts
 - Dinosaurs in the Bible?

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Where did we get these essentials?

1 Corinthians 15:3-8

For I passed on to you as of first importance what I also received—that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day according to the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. 8 Last of all, as though to one born at the wrong time, he appeared to me also.

Apostles Creed (no later than the 4th century, summary of the apostle's teaching)

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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;
he descended to the dead.
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 catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.