

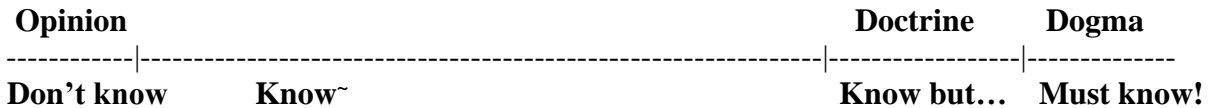
WRITTEN IN BLOOD, INK, OR PENCIL

Matthew 23:23-24 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithes of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted **the weightier matters of the law**, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

Ye blind guides,
 which strain (οἱ διυλίζοντες τὸν κώνωπα) at a **gnat**,
 and swallow (τὴν δὲ κάμηλον καταπίνοντες) a **camel**.

Introductory thoughts:

- Having categories
- Having appropriate beliefs in appropriate categories
- Then holding those beliefs appropriately



1. Written in **blood!**

- **Essential** to the gospel / the faith
- **Dogma**
- **Life & death issues**
- **Not** capable of change
- **We must know**

What might fit into this category?

1 Corinthians 15:1 Moreover, brethren, **I declare unto you the gospel** which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; **1 Corinthians 15:2** By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. **1 Corinthians 15:3** For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; **1 Corinthians 15:4** And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures; **1 Corinthians 15:5** And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve; **1 Corinthians 15:6** After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. **1 Corinthians 15:7** After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. **1 Corinthians 15:8** And last of all he was seen of me also....

1 Corinthians 15:11 **Therefore** whether it were **I** or **they**, so **we** preach, and so **ye** believed.

Ephesians 4:4 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; **Ephesians 4:5** One Lord, one faith, one baptism, **Ephesians 4:6** One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

Jude 3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for **the faith which was once delivered unto the saints**.

Ephesians 2:18 For **through him** we both have access **by one Spirit unto the Father**.

The Trinity and all that that im	Scripture...	Total depravity of man
Substitutionary atonement	Justification by faith alone	Literal, physical resurrection

Literal, physical second coming And all that that implies	Creation, fall, redemption	

What could not have been a fundamental for Paul & the apostles **cannot** be a fundamental for us!

2. Written in **ink!**

- **Essential** to the church / a Christian (life)
- **Doctrine**
- **Life & godliness issues!**
- Capable of change with **great** difficulty and probably **great** pain
- We know but...know these are not necessary for salvation!

Obviously these are very important issues and could not all be believed & practiced in the same church!

Some issues:

- Baptist
- Dispensationalism
- Cessationism
- Calvinistic (or...)
- Progressive sanctification
- Expository preaching
- Historic, conservative, hymn-based, congregational singing!
- Complementarianism

3. Written in **pencil!**

- **Essential** to me & my curiosity
- **Opinion** (usually an emotion)
- Non-life issue
- Capable of change
- Don't know...to know more or less!

This is an endless list!

Thoughts:

- We must weigh truth / do triage!
- We **cannot** only have one category
- This is a **continuum** or **spectrum**
- These are not airtight categories but direction
- In the two extremes, we are left **without** a Church or a Christian