

# WHAT ARE THE FUNDAMENTALS OF THE FAITH? 1 COR. 15:1-8

**What is a fundamental? A fundamental is an essential, a basic, a constituent, an irreducible minimum, a sine qua non.**

**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** (τῇ ἅπαξ παραδοθείσῃ τοῖς ἁγίοις πίστει).

**Galatians 1:23** But they had heard only, That he which persecuted us in times past now preacheth **the faith** which once he destroyed.

**1 Timothy 4:1** Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from **the faith**, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

**Matthew 23:23** Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe 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.

**1 Corinthians 1:11** For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you. **1 Corinthians 1:12** Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. **1 Corinthians 1:13** Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul? **1 Corinthians 1:14** I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius; **1 Corinthians 1:15** Lest any should say that I had baptized in mine own name. **1 Corinthians 1:16** And I baptized also the household of Stephanas: besides, I know not whether I baptized any other. **1 Corinthians 1:17** For Christ sent me not to baptize, **but to preach the gospel**: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.

**Romans 1:16** For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: **for** it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

## Thoughts:

- Paul was sent **primarily** to preach the gospel
- The gospel is the power of God unto salvation
- Paul preached many other truths **in connection to** the gospel
- Those truths are also important **just not** essential
- The gospel is essential to salvation

So what are the fundamentals?

## **I. Trinity: unity, deity, equality, distinguishability**

**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;

Who is Christ?		
A man?	A good man?	A very good / godly man?
A god?	God manifest in the flesh – the God-man!	

Tertullian: “Doctrine of trinity must be divinely revealed, not humanly constructed, for it is so absurd from a human standpoint no one would have invented it!”

## Thoughts:

**1. There is only one God (Deut. 6:4; 1 Tim. 2:5)**

**2. There are three who are called God**

**Father:** 1 Cor. 8:6

**Jesus / Son:** Jn. 1:1; Jn. 8:22-24,58; Heb. 1:8,10

**Holy Spirit:** Acts 5:1-4

**3. The options are limited:**

- The Bible is confused / mixed up
- Deny one of the propositions

Mormons: deny there is only one God

Jehovah Witnesses: deny they are all called God

- **Hold both propositions and develop a doctrine that explains them – the Trinity**

## II. The total depravity of man

**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;

**What condition is mankind in?**

- **Born basically good?**
- **Born neutral / innocent ?**
- **Born with a sinful nature, under the curse, and with a bent to sinning?**

**Romans 3:10** As it is written, There is **none** righteous, **no, not one**:

**Romans 3:23** For **all** have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

**Ecclesiastes 7:20** For there is **not** a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.

**Psalms 51:5** Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.

**Psalms 58:3** The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies.

**Ephesians 2:1** And you hath he quickened, **who were dead in trespasses and sins**; **Ephesians 2:2** Wherein in time past ye walked **according to** the course of this world, **according to** the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in **the children of disobedience**: **Ephesians 2:3** Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; **and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.**

**Romans 8:7** Because the carnal mind is **enmity** against God: for it is **not** subject to the law of God, **neither indeed can be.**

**1 Corinthians 2:14** But the natural man receiveth **not** the things of the Spirit of God: for they are **foolishness** unto him: **neither can he know them**, because they are spiritually discerned.

**Total depravity means the whole man is impacted by the fall: mind, will, & emotions.**

**Sin has twisted our very nature – we are sinners both by both & by choice.**

**There is no need of Christ and the gospel apart from sin & the sinfulness of mankind!**

**Jeremiah 17:9** The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

## III. The vicarious, substitutionary death of Christ

**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 Peter 3:18** For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just **for** the unjust, **that** he might bring us to God....

**Galatians 3:13** **Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us**: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

**John 10:11** I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life **for** the sheep.

**Mark 10:45** For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, **and to give his life a ransom for many.**

**Romans 10:1** Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. **Romans 10:2** For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. **Romans 10:3** For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. **Romans 10:4** For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

**Philippians 3:7** But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. **Philippians 3:8** Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, **Philippians 3:9** And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

**Ephesians 5:2** And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savour.

**How do man and God get back together? How is the gap bridged?**