

Intro and Theological Triage

College and Career Life Class

19 May 2024

Group Questions:

- 1) First Things First – Understanding First-Order Doctrines
- 2) On The Border – Christianity / World

Intro and Theological Triage – Group 2

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Topic: First Things First – Understanding First-Order Doctrines

Passages: Varies

“¹²For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.”

1 Corinthians 12:12–13 (ESV)

We will explore the foundational (first-level) doctrines that we had discussed previously. These are described as fundamental to the Christian faith, and we are going to explore them to determine why they are.

Take the following doctrines and search the Scriptures (both Old and New Testaments) and discuss with your group what the Bible says about these doctrines.

Examples of First-level Doctrines

- The Trinity
- The full deity and humanity of Christ
- Justification by grace alone through faith alone
- The authority of Scripture

If you are stuck and need some nudges, you can discuss these questions:

- How do these doctrines contribute to the overall narrative of Scripture (that is, the gospel) and the revelation of God’s character and plan for salvation?
- Why are these doctrines considered essential to the Christian faith? How do they impact our understanding of God, our relationship with Him, and our understanding of salvation?
- Why is it important that we do not misclassify them as second- or third- order issues?

When you are finished, report to the larger group what you discussed.

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Topic: On The Border – Christianity and the World

Passage: John 17:13-19

Read the passage, **John 17:13-19**.

This is the “token” passage where many Christians use the phrase “in the world, not of the world.” However, this can be a little misleading when we look at the context and the point of the passage that it came out of. Let’s remember our favorite three words when it comes to reading and interpreting scripture: *context, context, context*. Ok, it’s one word repeated three times, just bear with me.

From the referenced article:

“The motto could seem to give the drift, We are in this world, alas, but what we really need to do is make sure that we’re not of it.”

In this way of configuring things, the starting place is our unfortunate condition of being “in” this world. Sigh. And our mission, it appears, is to not be “of” it. So the force is moving away from the world. “Rats, we’re frustratingly stuck in this ole world, but let’s marshal our best energies to not be of it.” No doubt, it’s an emphasis that’s sometimes needed, but isn’t something essential being downplayed?

Let’s Revise the Popular Phrase “In, But Not Of”

Is this what the passage is saying? Is this what Jesus is praying to the Father for?

With your group discuss the following:

1. What is the surrounding context of this passage?
(When is it happening? Who is included in the discussion? What is being said?)
2. Does the phrase “in, but not of” accurately portray what Jesus is praying for?
3. Why would reversing the phrase to say “Not of, but sent into” be more accurate and better explain what this passage is about?

Report to the larger group what you discussed.

Reference:

- Let’s Revise the Popular Phrase “In, But Not Of”
<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/lets-revise-the-popular-phrase-in-but-not-of>