

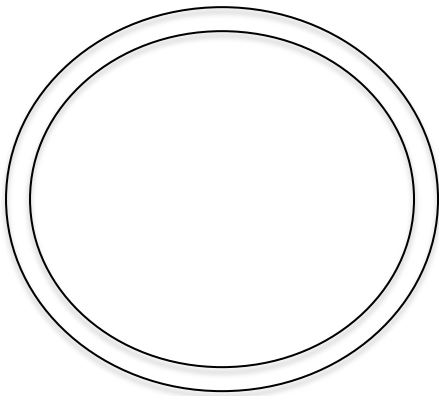
CORE DOCTRINE
by Douglas Jacoby
In-town Ministry, NRCOC
8 Feb 2017

Truth
Absolute, not relative
“Socially constructed”
Not pragmatism (what works)
Not information / data
Not plastic

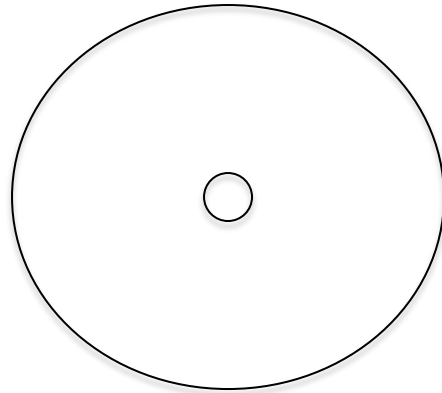
Hierarchy
Matt 22:36-40
Matt 23:23
All sins not equal
All commands not equal
All truths not equally vital

Biblical focus
Ex 20:1-17, Deut 6:4
Mic 6:8
Eph 4:3-6
Last words
Highlighted citations

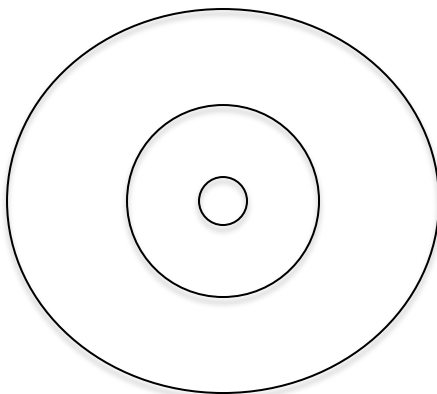
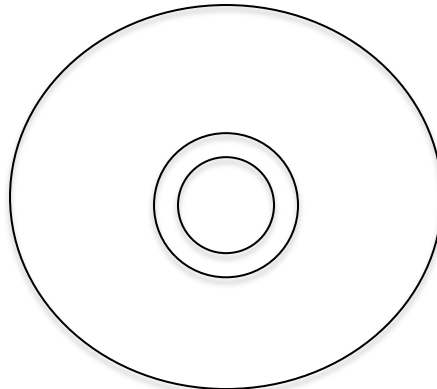
Ultra-Conservative
(Fundamentalist)



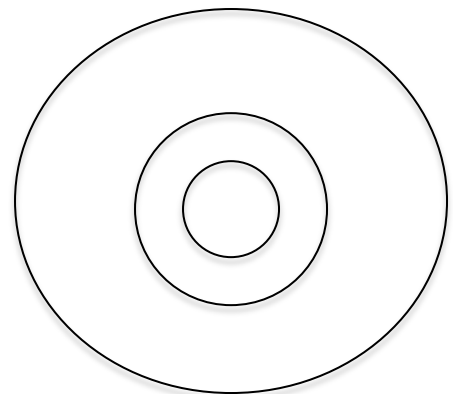
Ultra-Liberal
(Minimal core)



ICOC



Christian Churches
(Silences permissive)



Churches of Christ
(Silences prohibitive)

CORE DOCTRINE II

by Douglas Jacoby
In-town Ministry, NRCOC
12 April 2017

Last time:

- Led to many discussions, which is good.
- Should have *solidified* conviction—whereas someone who doesn't know much of the Bible will often misapply the principles to relative God's word. Since some things are less important than others, none really matter.
- Analogy: All organs important!
 - Rank them? Losing *any* one of them changes your life.
 - Of course if forced to choose, we would put brain and heart at the top of the list, right?
 - Nothing is optional! – just as everything in the Bible is there for a reason.
- Three circles of doctrine (review)
 - In Eph 4, Body Spirit Hope Lord Faith Baptism God – these are CORE matters.
 - In Eph 5, family/gender roles are IMPORTANT though not necessarily salvation-defining.
 - In Eph 6, demonology or how we are to resist Satan are peripheral.

Three circles: Joy comes from

- Jesus – Phil 3 -
- Others – Phil 2
- Self – Phil 1

Relationships (5 circles):

- God
- Spouse
- Children
- Church
- Outsiders

Christian commitment

- CORE: Jesus is first. Can't quantify or monitor this, and doing so could really give us false confidence. The obedient spirit will be obvious when the Lord returns – Matt 7:21-23.
- IMPORTANT: Local action:
 - When /where is church. What is expected of a Christian – since we have different gifts and church attendance, for example, is never absolutized.
 - Financially supporting the church. Giving is enormously important.
 - Being the hardest worker at your workplace.
- PERIPHERAL: Unseen things, not part of church life.
 - Fasting?
 - Leaving the facility cleaner than it was left for you .
 - Not bringing food / drink into the NR auditorium.

Morality & ethics

- CENTRAL
 - Holiness (purity). Take care what goes into my head – to be influenced more by spiritual ideas than by worldly ones. What's the problem with someone who is a couch potato?
 - Physical flabbiness easily translated to spiritual flabbiness.
 - Messages of a consumer society penetrate and take hold.
 - Since sin is glorified, the person loses conviction about sin.
 - End up in idolatry: caring more about things and appearances than about people and heart.
 - Obeying the clear commands of God.
 - Yes, there's grace, but disobedience to the light we have will lead to punishment. Luke 12:47-48. Rom 2.
 - Some sins are more devastating than others, but all sin is destructive.
 - Homosexual sin: Idolatries that cannot satisfy.
 - Especially damaging: LYING
 - Enormously important: involved with others. Our availability to do so varies with the seasons of life, but everyone has to be in the game. To withdraw is to put self before others, as well as to ignore the commands of the Lord, e.g. Matt 5, 25, 28.
- IMPORTANT
 - Do I take care of the temple? Diet and exercise...
 - Showing humility and respect towards all people.
 - Romantic attachments – because they affect us deeply. The object of our affections easily displaces God.
 - Let's say you have found a nice girl who says she's a Christian, or a handsome man who goes to a different church. Principles:
 - Is that person on fire for God? Possible you will win that person over (1 Pet 3:1-5), but more likely you will settle to his or her level of faith.
 - Is that person preaching an Americanized version of Christianity?
 - Sinner's Prayer – c. 1835, skipping faith and repentance and baptism
 - Protestant confusion, considering works the opposite of grace or faith, instead of two sides of a coin.
 - Easy Believism – California Christianity
 - Unwillingness to challenge sin,
 - to share the faith,
 - to let people into your life.
 - Health & Wealth – get-rich-quick scheme, Simon the Sorcerer!
 - Signs & Wonders – modern Pentecostal movement comes from the western US, early 20th C.
 - Sabbatarians – mid-19th C.
 - Messianics – new-fangled movement saying you need to follow Torah as much as possible in order to become mature and to please God.
 - Christian America
 - Unusual American religious groups...
 - AND when you show them what's true, do they fight you, or are they humble before the Bible? If you're not showing them, then what exactly are you looking for in this relationship—God's holiness, or your happiness?

- There's not sin in reaching out to a prospective mate—but your goal should *first* be to see them in a right relationship with God. What happens between the two of you is less important.
- PERIPHERAL – *not unimportant, just not our main agenda.*
 - Do I recycle? Ecology.
 - Pay off credit card monthly so no interest. While I might like to push this into the middle circle, it really comes down to matters of opinion as to *how we apply* biblical principles—like “Let no debt remain outstanding,” or “The borrower is servant to the lender.”
 - Receiving welfare or food stamps on a long-term basis. 3 John—principle of refusing help from the pagans. Pulling one's weight.
 - Women wearing trousers. Men wearing ear-rings...
 - Are we going to lay down the law in any of these peripheral matters? Not likely. These matters are too far from the center where most of our focus needs to be.

Who Is My Brother?

- Book and author (F. LaGard Smith, author of *Who is My Brother?*)
- Circles of fellowship: mankind, persons of faith, church people, NT Christians, own church family.
- Allows possibility of some saved in the next circle out, but holds on to conviction and doesn't play the judging game—judging people saved who don't seem to be following Christ.

CLOSE

- I will put my notes up at my website, as I did for the Sunday sermon.
- Conviction will require
 - Serious time invested in studying the scriptures
 - Direct and bold interaction with those who are not following the scriptures
 - Willingness to be ostracized, criticized, or just not be “cool?”
 - No son or daughter of God has the right to ignore the scriptures.
 - Let's be obedient!
- Q&A