

The difference between heresy and error (pt 1)

1 John has its fair share of verses aimed at the false teaching threatening John's readers. There's been plenty of advice, and in particular calls to be discerning. So how do we work out what is right, what is wrong, what is mere error and what is damnable heresy?

Like a triage nurse who has to work out what sort of medical emergency is taking place and the seriousness of the issue, we also need to have a theological triage. With a bit of help from Albert Mohler (president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary) here are some thoughts:

We begin with first-level theological issues which are those doctrines and beliefs which are essential and critical to the Christian faith. A denial of these doctrines represents nothing less than an eventual denial of Christianity itself. First level issues include doctrines concerning the Trinity, the authority of the scriptures, the full deity and humanity of Jesus, and justification by faith (to name a few). Any charges to these doctrines, or denials of them, fundamentally alter the nature of the gospel message.

Second order issues include doctrines and beliefs which are important but do not alter the fundamental gospel message. The weight of these issues should not cause Christians to question the salvation of other Christians, but they do impact the fellowship of believers. One typical example of this is the debate over infant vs adult baptism.

Third order issues are doctrines over which Christians may disagree and remain in close fellowship—even within local congregations. A common example of this would be matters of eschatology—the sequence and events during the 'End Times'. Christians can disagree on these matters, even sharply, but remain in true fellowship with each other as they stand together on first order matters.

Part of growing in discernment is to not only grow in familiarity with what scripture teaches on these matters, but to also understand the value that scripture places upon them. This helps us avoid a further error in which all disagreements are elevated to first order matters, and also help us understand that the way in which a disagreement is framed may reveal more serious matters underlying them (as a controversial example: arguments for women pastors, a second order issue, may reveal a disdain for the authority of scripture, a first order issue).

Space restricts further discussion on this—so over to you! How would you rate your understanding of Biblical doctrines? And do you think you presently understand enough to discern not only what the issues are but also how they are argued?



28 July 2019 | Service Times: 9am & 11:30am

Welcome, we're glad you're here!

We are a church family committed to following Jesus Christ as Lord. We do this by getting to know him through his living Word, the Bible, which is why the sermon is the key part of our Sunday services. Find out more about us at www.slechurch.org.au.

This Week: Responding to Hate and Lies with Love and Truth

The children of God responds to a world that hates with love for each other and responds to deception with divine assurance of truth and personal discernment.

Next Sunday: 1 John 4:7-21



Today's Service

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Welcome and Singing | By Faith Be Thou My Vision O Church Arise |
| Holy Communion | |
| Offering | |
| Community News | |
| Bible Reading | 1 John 3:13-4:6 |
| Sermon | By Pastor Ben Ho |
| Song of Response | O How Good It Is |

Stay Connected

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Check out slechurch.org.au/groups to find a group that you can join.

Say hello

Join us for morning tea at 10:30am.
We'd love to have a chat and get to know you better.

Our Pastors

SENIOR PASTOR BEN HO

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PASTOR STEVEN TRAN

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Financial Update

| | |
|-----------------|------------|
| Last Week | \$5,408.55 |
| Weekly Required | \$5,750.00 |
| Shortfall 2019 | \$0.00 |

Giving by Electronic Funds Transfer

A/C Name: SLE Church
Bank: National Australia Bank
BSB: 084-424
A/C No: 396558544

SLE Church is a branch church of Chinese Christian Church Brisbane

Prayer Points

SEE THE LOVE THE FATHER HAS FOR US! Praise God we should be called sons and daughters of God—and that is what we are! Praise God that in His immense kindness and love He did not spurn us in our sin, but cleansed us by the blood of His son and called us into His family forever!

PRAISE GOD THAT IN THE FUTURE WHAT IS NOT APPARENT WILL BECOME CLEAR. Praise God that our status as sons and daughters is won for us by faith in Christ, and praise God that when Jesus returns those who are His will be made known. Praise God that one day we will see Him as He truly is.

PRAY THAT WE WOULD PERSEVERE IN PRACTICING RIGHTEOUSNESS. Pray that we would not grow weary or give up in practicing righteousness now. Pray that we would do so from the right perspective—that we are not trying to secure our salvation, but that we are pleasing our Father who dearly loves us.

PRAY THAT WE WOULD BE A CARING COMMUNITY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK. Thank God for how He has worked in our church to care for each other—and pray that we would be mindful and watchful for those struggling with their health. Pray that we would find different ways to serve each other in this time.

Community News

BLOOM—COMPARED TO HER #2

“I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation” (Phil 4:12)

Comparing ourselves against the standards of others, is a seemingly small but destructive problem. It is “more like cancer than the common cold... It eats away at our happiness, our relationships, our very selves.” (Jean Williams)

In the second of a 2-part series on finding contentment as Christian woman, we will (finally!) hear what God's Word has to say about the cure for this widespread problem. We will uncover what is the “secret of contentment.” - a life of real significance, satisfaction and security. Finally, we will explore how to live healthy and contented lives in our relationship with God and others.

Saturday 3rd August 1.30-4pm

Please RSVP by 30 July at slechurch.org.au/groups/bloom. This will greatly help with planning and logistics for the event.

UPCOMING SLE CHURCH CAMP 2019—4 TO 7 OCTOBER

Registration at slechurch.org.au/camp2019

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS DAY, SATURDAY 10 AUGUST, 9:30AM—12NOON.

Please register at slechurch.org.au/mentalhealthawareness to secure a seat, and bring a plate of morning tea to share.

Serving

| | Today | Next Sunday |
|-------------------|--|--|
| Chair | Simeon | Ps Steven |
| Prayer | Ps Steven | Mike |
| Preach | Ps Ben | Ps Ben |
| Bible Read | Jansen <i>Ps Steven</i> | Boon Cheng <i>Alan</i> |
| M.Tea | Yenny, Vivienne | Karilyn, Elleen |
| Wash Up | Clay | Clay |
| Welcome | Richard Georgie Amy <i>Andrew</i> <i>Sean</i> <i>Leya</i> | Ken Steph Meng Yin <i>Marilyn</i> <i>Jabez</i> <i>James</i> |
| Stewards | Simeon Meng Yin Philip <i>Aaron</i> <i>Alan</i> <i>Josh</i> | <i>Stanley</i> <i>GengHao</i> <i>Edwina</i> |
| Piano | Dan Lowe | |
| Guitar | Ivan | |
| Bass | Aaron | |
| Drums | Nigel | |
| Vocal | Hui Ming | |
| PA | William <i>Stan</i> | |

6. Responding to Hate and Lies with Love and Truth [1 John 3:13-4:6]

1. Introduction: The World vs. Christians (3:13)

2. Responding to the World's Hate with Christian Love (3:14-18)

a. Love: the mark of life (14-15)

b. Look Love: the model of Christ (16-18)

3. Responding to the World's Lies with Truth (3:19-4:6)

a. Divinely assured hearts (3:19-24)

b. Discerning truth (4:1-6)

4. Conclusion