

The Need for a Doctrinal Statement

1. Doctrinal statements allow us to unite under the apostles' _____ and _____ (Acts 2:42).
2. Doctrinal statements provide an _____ to keep ourselves from _____ (2 Timothy 4:3-4).
3. Doctrinal statements enable us to _____ and _____ those who teach _____ doctrine (2 Timothy 3:1-9; 2 Peter 2:1).
4. Doctrinal statements reflect the basis for _____ (Ephesians 4:11-16).
5. Doctrinal statements help us _____.¹
6. Doctrinal statements shape _____.²
7. Doctrinal statements declare _____.

Philosophies of a Doctrinal Statement

1. _____ must completely agree with every part of a doctrinal statement.
2. _____ must be willing to submit to teaching in line with the doctrinal statement, while _____ must completely agree with every part of a doctrinal statement.

¹ Woltmann, Dan, "The Legal Documents and Requirements for Churches," *ChurchHelps*, accessed January 11, 2024, published February 24, 2020, <https://churchhelps.org/2020/02/24/the-legal-documents-and-requirements-for-churches/>.

² Daryl Crouch, "8 Reasons Why Churches Need Doctrinal Statements," *Lifeway Research*, accessed January 9, 2024, published March 9, 2020, <https://research.lifeway.com/2020/03/09/8-reasons-churches-need-doctrinal-statements/#:~:text=Doctrinal%20statements%20teach%20believers%20how,is%20not%20discovered%20within%20ourselves.>

3. _____ must be willing to submit to teaching in line with the doctrinal statement, and _____ must be willing to teach in line with the doctrinal statement.
4. _____ can have his own convictions regarding the doctrinal statement.

Final Comments

1. What should be included?
2. What if I am not sure?
3. What about soul liberty?
4. “I quickly move off church websites when I see that they believe in a ‘rapture’ pre-millennial/pre-trib theology. That’s of course because I so strongly disagree with it, and I often don’t see why it needs to be stated. I think... ‘Can’t we just agree that Christ is returning?’”³
5. Don’t relegate doctrine to the dusty shelves. “[Doctrines are] living and divine tools of salvation, transformation, identity and guidance.”⁴

³ David Flowers, “On Church Doctrinal Statements,” *David Flowers*, accessed January 9, 2024, published January 30, 2013, <https://davidflowers.com/2013/01/30/on-church-doctrinal-statements/>.

⁴ Paul Tripp, “The Importance of Doctrine,” *Paul Tripp*, accessed January 9, 2020, published July 2, 2018, <https://www.paultripp.com/articles/posts/the-importance-of-doctrine-article>.