

“... pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart”  
2 Timothy 2:22

## October 17th, 2021 - A Great Litmus Test for Doctrine



In a world filled with thousands of denominations, it can be confusing to know what to believe and what to reject. In 1 John, the apostle gives us a wonderful litmus test: the key to fellowship with God is by following what the apostles heard “*from the beginning.*” (1:1,3) If any religious teaching today doesn’t match what the apostles learned “*from the beginning,*” it’s false. For 3 reasons:

**1) What’s from the beginning came from God.** In John’s gospel, He says, “*In the beginning, the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*” (John 1:1) In John’s letter, he says the apostles heard, saw, and touched that same Word (1 John 1:1)! In the beginning, human beings weren’t even around, so there would have been no trace of human, man-made doctrine! The only doctrine, the only word, was God’s Word! So if the teaching we believe is “*from the beginning,*” it means it originated with God, not man.

**2) What’s from the beginning is uncorrupted.** The law of entropy says over time things fall into disorder. That’s how it was in the Bible too. In Genesis 1, everything was perfectly ordered by God! But in Genesis 3, sin entered the world and spiritual entropy set in. Man twisted God’s good intentions for us and His world and created their own religions by worshipping idols. Peter says, “*untaught and unstable people distort the Scriptures to their own destruction.*” (2 Peter 3:16) The reason John starts his gospel, “*In the beginning was the Word...*” is to remind us of Genesis 1. Jesus is bringing a new Genesis to the world! He’s coming to restore God’s order back to the way it was supposed to be from the beginning. So when we believe doctrine that comes from Jesus and His apostles “*from the beginning,*” we’re returning to the pure, uncorrupted teaching of God.

**3) What’s from the beginning gives life.** In Genesis, the word of God created life. All He had to do was speak, “*Let there be light*” — “*and there was light.*” (Genesis 1:3). It’s why John calls Jesus the “*Word of life*” (1 John 1:1). In John’s gospel, he says about the Word, “*All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.*” (John 1:4). He mentions the word “*life*” 47 times in his gospel, because the words of Jesus that came “*from the beginning*” give us eternal life!

A great litmus test for doctrine is to ask, “*Is this what the apostles heard and taught from the beginning?*” If not, it’s man-made, corrupted, and brings death. Ironically, religious groups like Jehovah’s Witnesses, Mormons, 7th Day Adventists, and Muslims all argue that Christianity became corrupted, so we needed additional, later revelation from sources like the Watchtower magazine, Joseph Smith, Ellen G. White, and Muhammad. But if Christianity is corrupted, it’s only because people aren’t following the apostles doctrine “*from the beginning.*” When religious groups like these introduce a “*word*” from God hundreds of years later that differs from what the apostles taught “*from the beginning,*” they’re doing exactly what John warned us about!

Why don’t we believe in “*once saved always saved?*” Because it’s not what was taught from the beginning. Why not subscribe to the structure and doctrines of the Roman Catholic church? Because it’s not from the beginning. Why not use pianos and guitars to make the singing better? Because it’s not from the beginning.

The world may look at us like we’re sticks in the mud who oppose change. We may get odd looks for not being “*progressive*” enough. But God measures true progress by how well we stay true to His uncorrupted, life-giving Word revealed in Jesus “*from the beginning.*” - BM

### Sunday Worship Services

9 a.m. Lord’s Supper Service  
9:45 a.m. Bible Class  
10:45 a.m. Praise & Preaching

Wednesday Bible Classes 7:30 p.m.

### Elders

Herb Hinely 407-339-4805  
Jeff Hunt 407-739-5266  
Joe Rimmer 407-414-7393  
Dave Weaver 407-782-1112  
Tim Welsh 407-670-8279

### Deacons

Matt Hinely, Terry Petty  
Erik Quist, Rory Salimbene  
Jack Thomas, Emory VanCleaf

### Evangelists

Brian Messerli 407-300-2517  
Dwayne Gandy 214-724-5375



Love is the unconditional \_\_\_\_\_ to act for the well-  
\_\_\_\_\_ of others

### **Counterfeit Version #1: Love is Just a \_\_\_\_\_**

- **Problems:** 1) Feelings \_\_\_\_\_ 2) Can we only love people we have “feelings” for? 3) Feelings don’t \_\_\_\_\_ the other person
  - **1 John 4:10; 3:16-18**

### **Counterfeit Version #2: Love is Approving People’s Choices**

- **Problem:** Would God really be \_\_\_\_\_ if He approved all human choices?
  - **1 John 4:10; John 3:16, 19-20**
  - The most loving thing God did was \_\_\_\_\_ the horror of our choices and give us hope to make better ones.

### **Real, 1 John 4:10 Love**

#### **1. An Unconditional Choice to Act**

- **1 John 4:10; Deuteronomy 7:7-8; Romans 5:8**
  - Even without the \_\_\_\_\_, we can still choose to show love.
  - The affection follows the \_\_\_\_\_
    - Feelings matter because God designed relationships to be pleasurable and satisfying (**Micah 7:18; Psalm 149:4; 1 John 1:3-4**)

#### **2. For the Well-Being of Others**

- **1 John 4:10; Isaiah 53:5**
  - **A) Real love requires sacrifice (Philippians 2:3-8)**
  - **B) The way we show our love is \_\_\_\_\_ (John 16:27)**
    - We choose to show love unconditionally, but how we show it is conditional (**Hebrews 12:4-5; Proverbs 27:5-6**)

### **Discussion Questions for H2H**

1. What resonated with you most from the sermon and why?
2. Can you think of any other counterfeit versions of love in our culture?
3. Can you share an example of a time you bought into a counterfeit version of love and how it went for you?
4. Can you share an example of a time your feelings for God, your spouse, a friend, a sibling, or an enemy had grown cold, but when you took action you noticed your feelings change?

# Announcements

Sunday, October 17, 2021

Please email all new announcements to [announcements@psd.church](mailto:announcements@psd.church).

## MEMBER HEALTH ISSUES:

- **Terry Tokash** is still at the VA hospital oxygen issues from COVID. While the oxygen treatment initially helped him feel better, his oxygen levels are still too low. Any kind of exertion causes his levels to drop. He is definitely still in need of our prayers. **Marek and Joran** are all feeling better now, but since Terry has COVID, just to be respectful of others, Stacy and the boys will be staying home today.
- **Debbie McCollum** is caring for her Mom in Merritt Island on the weekends. **Randy** is at home to care for **Mack** on Sundays.
- **Jack Thomas'** funeral will be held this Friday, October 22nd at the Baldwin Fairchild Funeral Home in Altamonte Springs (994 E Altamonte Drive). **Viewing:** 1:00 p.m. **Service:** 2:00 p.m. **Reception** at Joy's house afterward. His **graveside service** will be at the Garden of Memories in Tampa (4207 E. Lake Avenue, Tampa FL 33610) on Saturday, Oct. 23rd at 1:00 p.m.

## FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF PSD:

- **Dave Thomas** had a successful second surgery to remove the infection in his foot. He is hoping to go home tomorrow, where he'll get some home rehabilitation to get back on his feet after losing his big toe.

## TRAVELING:

- **Dwayne Gandy** will be Portage, Indiana for a gospel meeting until October 22nd.
- **The Salimbene's** are in Tampa for their son Eric's wedding. They'll be back this afternoon.
- **Matt and Amy Hinely and kids** are on a three-month family vacation. They will return on October 20th.

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Rachel Gunn** will be taking new member photos after services on the porch today, October 17th, and October 24th.
- **We need to create November Worship Duties** this week, so please log in to [psd.church](http://psd.church), go to "Account Settings", click "Unavailabilities" and input your **unavailable dates** for November. Be sure to click "Update" before leaving the page.
- **The shepherds need to meet with the deacons** in Classroom #5 for 15 minutes after worship today. It's important information to prepare us for our November 28th shepherds, deacons, preachers meeting.
- **The shepherds need to meet with ALL teachers**, past, present, and future, on **Sunday, November 28th at 2:00 p.m.** They have a very specific plan with important things to discuss and it's important to get the input of all the teachers. Please plan to come. If you can't make it, please let the shepherds know.
- **Please sign up for a H2H group** if you've not done so, there's still plenty of room! Sign up sheets are in the lobby
  - **Sundays @ 2:30 PM** at John and Amy Ciolkosz' house (Tim Welsh leading)
  - **Tuesdays @ 7:00 PM** at Herb and Trish Hinely's house (Terry Tokash leading)
  - **Thursdays @ 7:00 PM** at Jeff and Julia Hunt's house (Dave Weaver leading)

## SHUT-IN:

- **Anne Dickson, Geny Harrison, Peggy Hunt, Lynna Davis, Patsy Holt, and Pat Steele**

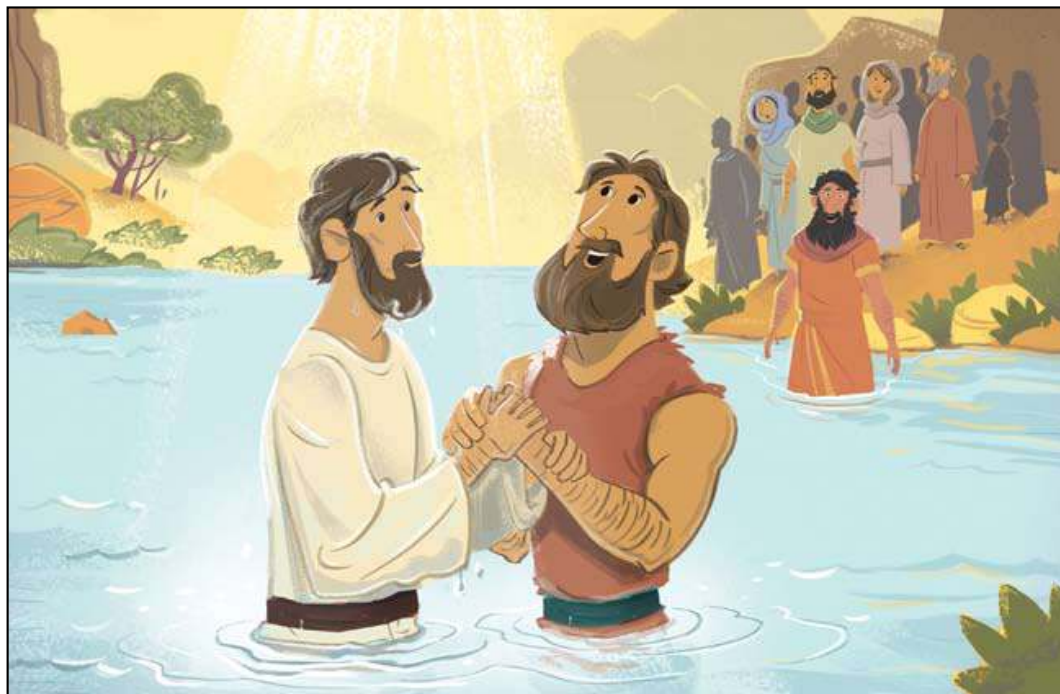
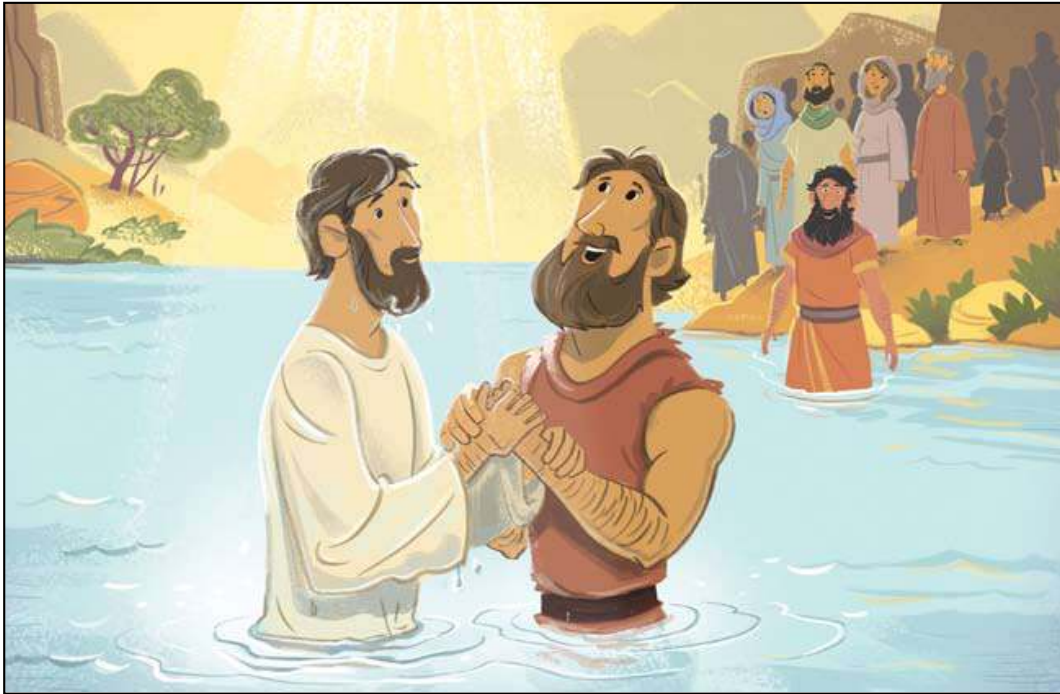
## DATES TO NOTE:

Today	H2H Week #2: October 10 - November 20th
Sunday, Nov. 7	Time Change - Daylight Saving Time Ends
Saturday, Nov. 13	Bible class curriculum workshop: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 28	Shepherds meeting with ALL teachers, past, present, future - 2:00 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 28	Deacons, Preachers, Shepherds Meeting - 2:30 p.m.



## Jesus' Baptism Spot the Differences

Compare the picture on the top with the picture on bottom. Circle the 11 things that are different.



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### Memory Verse:

**1 John 4:10** - *“In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”*