



Flexibility vs Inflexibility



AND



Essentials vs Nonessentials



In the Christian Way of Life

Essentials vs Non-Essentials
Flexibility vs Inflexibility
In the
Christian Way of Life

Taken from detailed studies By R. B. Thieme Jr.
The Book of Romans, 1977 & 1979, Series 458 & 459

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Dedication

The word of God is alive and powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of the soul and the spirit, and of the joints and the marrow, and is a critic of thoughts and intents of the heart. (Heb 4:12) All Scripture is God-breathed, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; that the man of God might be mature, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. (2Tim 3:16-17) Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (2Tim. 2:1)

This compilation of doctrinal principles is dedicated to my pastor of some 40+ years, Col. R. B. Thieme Jr., who, in my humble opinion, was one of, if not the, foremost theologian of the 20th century and most likely many others as well. Without his consistent undaunted dogmatic teaching of Bible Doctrine this document would not have been possible and I would most likely NOT have a clue about the Christian Way of Life. In his physical presence, mental acuity, supreme dedication to the word of God and overriding dogmatic veracity in the presentation of the doctrines of the bible he has been a life changing inspiration to myself and literally hundreds of thousands of other believers throughout the world. I, and these others I am sure, look forward to the honor of standing in ranks before the Judgment Seat of Jesus Christ as representatives of the “Berachah Battalion” who have grown up in the Spiritual Life under his phenomenal grace teaching.

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Preface

Before a believer begins to study anything related to bible doctrine he must ensure that he is under the ministry of God the Holy Spirit for teaching which requires the Filling of God the Holy Spirit. This can only be accomplished if he will name his sins privately to God the Father in order to be forgiven those and all other sins and to be placed again into fellowship with God and under the teaching and guiding ministry of God the Holy Spirit. **1st John 1:9** states, "If we confess (name or cite) our (known) sins, He is faithful and justified to forgive us our (known) sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (unknown sins)." This will put the believer into fellowship with God and under the Filling of God the Holy Spirit in a state of Genuine Humility and teachability and ready to learn Bible Doctrine. If you have never personally expressed faith alone in The Lord Jesus, The Christ alone the issue is NOT naming your sins. The issue is nonmeritorious faith alone in Christ alone. "He who believes in the Son has Eternal Life; But he who does not obey the command to believe in the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him." (**John 3:36**)

If we are totally objective we must admit to having delusions about some things in life at some time. For myself there is ONE thing in this life which I have no delusions about, Bible Doctrine. Were it not for the teaching ministry of Col. R. B. Thieme Jr. and his consistent clear, concise and dogmatic presentation of the doctrines of the bible I would know nothing of orthodox fundamental biblical doctrine. I have no delusion about my knowledge, calling or spiritual gift; and, recognize that I could not do what he and many other pastors have done, and continue to do, in the constant studying and teaching of doctrine to their congregations. Over the years I have learned innumerable principles from these studies by Pastor Thieme. One of the most important things I have learned has been that "your rate of learning MUST exceed your rate of FORGETTING" in order to advance in the Spiritual Life or to maintain your level of spiritual growth. This amplifies the necessity therefore of constant, consistent Perception, Cognition, Incultation and Metabolization of Bible Doctrine and ultimately the application of it to life. It is my desire that this document be a source of consolidated doctrine to fulfill that very purpose.

This is a compilation from my notes based on the principles directly derived from the lessons taught by Col. R. B. Thieme Jr., in the period from 1970 to the end of his ministry, specifically from the lessons involving the study of the Book of Romans and various other passages as well. These were taught after many years of Pastor Thieme serving in his ministry of Studying and Teaching Orthodox Fundamental Biblical Christian Doctrine according to an Isagogical, Exegetical and Categorical method. With this in mind be conscious of the fact that some of the terminology, doctrine and principles presented here will be, at best, difficult and possibly obscure for the new or infant believer. It took the Colonel many years of preparation and study to come to the point of being able to extract these doctrines and principles from the original languages of scripture so it should reasonably require some years of study by the believer under his type of ministry to be able to understand what is herein contained. To facilitate this understanding on the part of the reader I have linked segments of this document with others to enable the reader to review or recall concepts, principles and doctrines while reading other parts. I have also included a Glossary of terms which I believe will help in this endeavor.

As one would expect, I have entered some opinions and concepts of my own from what I have learned from my studies of his teaching of Bible Doctrine in later lessons, from later years and from

life experiences and other current materials regarding ongoing historical and social trends. My effort here has been to consolidate the principles of Essentials and Flexibility for the Christian Way of Life in this Church Age in order to provide a place where believers might go to acquire or review concise but detailed information related to these principles. However, nothing contained herein is ever to be construed to have been originated by my personal abilities to extract doctrines from the scripture. Neither is this to be a substitute for consistent daily study under one's right Pastor Teacher in order to develop the momentum needed to reach and hold on to spiritual maturity, the ultimate objective of the Spiritual Life. I have taken the liberty of trying to only add pertinent examples of historical and social trends which I see occurring some time after these lessons elucidated them. If more details and reference passages are desired on the Essentials of and Flexibility in the Spiritual Life or how these principles were derived the original lessons can be ordered from **R. B. Thieme Jr. Bible Ministries**, P.O. Box 460829, Houston Tx. 77056-8829, or by phoning 713-621-3740.

Once again, my objective in compiling these principles of Bible Doctrine is not whether it is considered good or bad, liked or disliked as a message but whether God the Holy Spirit can use the doctrinal content in the life of YOU the believer reading it. I have nothing to prove to anyone in life and it is only getting the message through to the YOU, the reader, that is important to me so that there is something for God the Holy Spirit to use. I have, in fact, attempted to organize these principles into discrete segments or categories. However, as always with regard to Bible Doctrine, these principles resist any attempt at separation into singular units being intricately intertwined into a system of interaction within the Spiritual Life. With this in mind understand that there will be duplication and repetition and one type of Essential or Non-Essential cannot always be separated and individually studied without relating it's impact on and from, very often, several others. However, as we clearly know in life and as the Colonel might have said on occasion: "REPETITION, REPETITION, REPETITION IS INVALUABLE SO GET USED TO IT AND ENJOY IT.

Dr. Frank P. Ferraro

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Introduction to Flexibility and Essentials of the Christian Way of Life

The goal of this book is to provide examples of what is Essential and what is Non-Essential in life. For the unbeliever and believer alike the primary Essentials of life are found in the pertinent doctrines of the bible. For the Unbeliever the prime Essentials include the Laws of Divine Establishment, Divine Institutions, and of course the Gospel of The Lord Jesus, The Christ. For the believer after Salvation Adjustment to the Justice of God the prime Essentials are found in all the doctrines of the Bible which can only be exposed by accurate analysis of the original languages of the scripture using a categorical, exegetical and isogogic approach by a qualified Pastor Teacher. The understanding of and functioning properly under this principle of Essentials vs Non-Essentials produces great flexibility in dealing with life's encounters and dogmatic inflexibility regarding the ESSENTIALS. This information concerning Flexibility in the Spiritual Life and Essentials of the Christian Way of Life are drawn from the bible studies taught by Pastor R. B. Thieme Jr. This book is derived from notes I have accumulated from lessons I have studied for more than 25 years. As I have consolidated this accumulated information it has become painfully obvious that most believers in The Lord Jesus, The Christ completely distort the concepts of what is Essential in the Spiritual Life and when to be FLEXIBLE with regard to applications of Bible Doctrine in life.

The principle believers must always function under it to never allow Non-Essentials in life to interfere with consistent Perception, Cognition, Incultation & Metabolization of Bible Doctrine. Most believers are asleep in life from overemphasis on Non-Essentials so that stupidity is the next step for their progression in the Spiritual Life. Negative Volition toward truth, especially Bible Doctrine, produces ignorance which produces **Arrogance** which inevitably leads to **divorcement from reality** which produces inflexibility as does the inability of the individual to concentrate on subjects which don't currently apply to or interest him at the time of them being taught. Some individuals can make it in a crisis with less doctrine than others because they can **CONCENTRATE** on whatever doctrine they possess in their soul. The secret in developing this ability is to be able to think under pressure or follow a good system of protocol.

It is an Essential in the Christian Way of Life to develop Humility as a virtue in order to be teachable and to accumulate Bible Doctrine into the soul. Humility is developed in 3 categories under 3 systems:

- **Organizational Humility** developed as a result of being in some organization or group beginning with the family unit.
- **Enforced Humility** developed as a result of being under the authority of some other individual person or group or in an organization of some sort.
- **Genuine Humility** developed as a result of proper function and orientation to both organizational and enforced humility and is almost completely dependent on self discipline.

Enforced and Genuine Humility are seen as virtue when a person responds to authority and tries to do a good job even and especially when the authority over him is unfair. For the Christian this is the visible influence of invisible Metabolized Bible Doctrine in the Stream of Consciousness of the soul. This occurs for the believer with Positive Volition toward Bible Doctrine and for the unbeliever who functions under the doctrinal principles of the Laws of Divine Establishment and Divine Institutions. Vulnerability to distraction, failure, and ultimately focus on Non-Essentials in life can only be combated through Humility. Humility comes from the proper function of the Rebound Procedure and Perception, Cognition, Incultation and Metabolization of Bible Doctrine under the Filling of God the

Holy Spirit and the Grace Apparatus for Perception.

The Key to Prosperity in a family or group or organization or nation is functioning under the Laws of Divine Establishment and having authority orientation. Rejecting Bible Doctrine or any of the categories of absolute truth, which are the primary Essentials of life, especially the Spiritual Life, ultimately produces Black out of the Soul (loss of Absolute Truth content in the soul) and Scar Tissue of the Soul (hardening of the soul preventing accumulation of Absolute Truth) from moving through the 8 stages of Reversionism. The removal of ignorance in the Spiritual Life can only occur by means of the Perception, Cognition, Incultation & Metabolization of the Essential of life, Bible Doctrine. This often becomes an affront to the believer who has been conned into giving up many Non-Essentials things in life as part of his pseudo spiritual lifestyle and this results in his rejection of the Essential of Bible Doctrine out of hand.

All believers in The Lord Jesus, The Christ serve God on this earth as Ambassadors for Christ, representing God to man. Believers cannot simultaneously serve God and engage in any Non-Essentials of life which are not a result of focus on God and Spiritual Advance from Bible Doctrine. If they do this it results in Bible Doctrine taking a back seat priority, while Non-Essentials become the primary priority in this lifestyle. Eventually this results in Bible Doctrine being forgotten with the Non-Essentials being used for entertainment and fulfillment of all the Lusts of the Old Sin Nature. As a result there is a loss of perceptive reality as well as loss of the reality of the source of all blessings. Therefore, these believers only have remaining to them the reality of Reversionism and Degeneracy from the conversion of the outside pressures of prosperity or adversity into stress in the soul. As a result of the lack of the Doctrinal Problem Solving Devices and essentially having NO Metabolized Bible Doctrine in the Stream of Consciousness of the Soul there is therefore great Self Induced Misery combined with warning, intensive and ultimately dying Divine Discipline. The only recourse for this believer is to function under the **Rebound Procedure** for recovery and engage in consistent Perception, Cognition, Incultation and Metabolization of Bible Doctrine under the Filling of God the Holy Spirit in the Grace Apparatus for Perception, Operation Z.

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Flexibility, Inflexibility, Essentials, Non-Essentials & the Christian Life

With the focus on the Christian Way of Life in order to even approach reality the believer in The Lord Jesus, The Christ must properly orient Flexibility and Inflexibility of personal thought, motivation and function. This orientation must be related to Essentials vs Non-Essentials in the Christian Way of Life to establish a true reality for the believer. Therefore it is important to recognize that the purpose of the Christian in this life, in his time on earth, is to "Grow in Grace and Knowledge" and therefore it to basically LEARN about Christ, God, the Plan of God and his place in that plan. The only source of information regarding God, The Lord Jesus, The Christ, and the Plan of God is what God has revealed to us in the Bible Doctrine of the Canon of Scripture. We live in an administrative time period of history, a dispensation, where the only source of knowledge of God is from the written canon of scripture. God no longer appears or speaks to individuals or groups but relegates a level of authority to the properly trained and motivated Pastor Teacher who teaches Bible Doctrine in an expository way from the original canon of the bible. The Pastor Teacher receives his authority

based on the content of the Bible Doctrine he teaches and that Bible Doctrine as the directly inspired Word of God is God's authority on this earth. THEREFORE, Bible Doctrine is THE source of Absolute Truth, from the absolute truthfulness and Integrity of God, which is provided for mankind to know God and his plan. It is therefore logical to assume that the most important thing for the believer in The Lord Jesus, The Christ is Orthodox, Fundamental, Biblical Doctrine from the Original Languages of the Canon of Scripture taught by a pastor teacher in a single local church in an expository way emphasizing Isagogics, Categorical analysis and relationship, and Exegesis of the languages of the passages of scripture. Therefore, it is simple to conclude that properly researched, analyzed and presented Bible Doctrine, which is to be learned in a strict academic setting, under the Filling of God the Holy Spirit, by means of the **Grace Apparatus for Perception** of **Operation Z** is the **Essential** of the Christian Way of Life. As the believer learns and metabolizes Bible Doctrine under Operation Z and gains an understanding of God's RESPONSIBILITY for him as a member of the Royal Family of God living in a world ruled by Satan he then sees that EVERYTHING else in life is a Non-Essential when put into the perspective of Bible Doctrine. It then becomes clearly obvious that we must be completely and totally INFLEXIBLE about the Essentials of Bible Doctrine and totally FLEXIBLE about the Non-Essentials of life.

Distinguishing Essential from Non-Essential

Essential concepts in Christianity and life in general are always based on Bible Doctrine which includes the **Laws of Divine Establishment** and the **Divine Institutions** which are in fact doctrinal principles. Non-Essentials are everything else in life including opinions based on an individual's background, training, education, functions in life and under environmental factors in life and these do not necessarily contradict nor do they support doctrinal principles. Believers must remain under the high standards of the **Royal Family Honor Code** and avoid falling into the lower standards of anyone who is opposing or attacking them. This demands that they know the difference between the Essentials and the Non-Essential opinions of others. The only Essentials in life are the foundational doctrines of scripture and these must never be compromised and erroneous opinions regarding these Essentials must not ever be tolerated by advancing believers but require separation by the believer from those who promote them. Groups, such as those who think they speak in tongues or who proclaim divine healing in their services, MUST be separated from. On the other hand, Non-Essentials such as dietary considerations or prohibitions, sabbath observance, clothing styles, etc., must be tolerated since they are of no consequence in the Spiritual Life and generally found in immature or negative believers or unbelievers. Thus, in the Christian Way of Life, **'Impersonal Love'** is the toleration of all Non-Essential opinions while separation is the only acceptable choice when and where there is rejection of Essential Bible Doctrine. Bible Doctrines are the only Essential in the Christian life and the mature believer having a maximum of **Metabolized Bible Doctrine** in his Right Lobe of the Stream of Consciousness of the Soul must be totally inflexible with regard to Bible Doctrine. After Bible Doctrine is metabolized and becomes part of the conscious and norms and standards of the soul, the application of that doctrine is subject to the Status Quo of spiritual growth of the individual believer so that application is therefore very flexible. The immature believer lives in a vice versa category with regard to what he is flexible and inflexible about as he grows up in his Spiritual Life by means of Grace . The immature believer is flexible about the intake and metabolization of Bible Doctrine even at times rejecting it or more often neglecting it. He is at times inflexible about the Non-Essentials of life and his applications are often very strict according to Non-Essential standards he has set up based on his background in life. On

the other hand Maturing or Mature believers are inflexible with regard to the Essentials of Bible Doctrines. However these believers must also be very flexible in the application of these Bible Doctrines to the Non-Essential things in life. The immature believers very often function opposite to the mature believer in the Spiritual Life due to lack of sufficient Bible Doctrine for setting correct Norms and Standards, as a result of their norms and standards being based on prior life experiences. When in contact with these immature believers advancing or mature believers must also respect the privacy of their priesthood and function toward them with Impersonal Love and tolerance.

All functions in professions, personal responsibilities, various activities, attitudes toward life and capacity for life are all Non-Essentials of life. The believer can become a strong believer if he follows the principle of recognizing the Essentials of Bible Doctrine from the Non-Essentials in life. Believers who are functioning under Positive Volition toward Bible Doctrine and are consistent in Perception, Cognition, Incultation and Metabolization of Bible Doctrine under the Filling of God the Holy Spirit and Grace Apparatus for Perception MUST be inflexible regarding the Essentials and totally flexible regarding the Non-Essentials. Their position must be that Priority #1 in life is to learn Bible Doctrine and resolve all personal controversies by means of the Metabolized Bible Doctrine in their own Stream of Consciousness of the Soul. The believer under Positive Volition toward Bible Doctrine should never try to change the mind of the legalistic reversionist believer or unbeliever and actually never even engage in debates with them. Advancing Believers must recognize that because of the varying stages of spiritual growth among believers there can be great areas of flexibility in the application of principles. Mature believers cannot and should not tell these people that they are wrong even when they obviously are. Their applications come from former background growth and they must have opportunity to grow under their own Positive Volition through persistent Perception, Cognition, Incultation & Metabolization of Bible Doctrine in order to develop correct applications. However, if these other believers are clearly negative with regard to Essentials of Bible Doctrine then advancing believers must simply separate from them since these others will be a great distraction for them from their Spiritual Life functions. People in general don't agree on many things but must tolerate each other for many reasons and relax about things that are obviously wrong but that are not Essentials in life. No one can ever truly correct another person's thinking or attitudes or their false ideas so instead of trying to correct them positive believers must simply separate from them. Every person, every believer is entitled to his own opinions about everything and should hold on to them UNTIL BIBLE DOCTRINE wipes them out. In this life, as a believer in The Lord Jesus, The Christ, the only thing which makes one wrong or right is how things align with Bible Doctrine. If believers hang on to personal opinions and allow others to do so as well for as long as they want and until Bible Doctrine corrects these opinions then that allows Bible Doctrine to always be the issue. Only Bible Doctrine can remove the prejudices and false standards of the weak and immature believers.

Differences in Essentials & Non-Essential Applications

The Royal Family Honor Code demands ridged adherence to the Essentials of Bible Doctrine. Variation in application or differences in perceived Non-Essentials does not permit, nor consent to variation in the Essential doctrines. There is no place for Flexibility regarding Bible Doctrine. This is how reversionism has gained a great hold in fundamentalist Christianity. Norms and Standards in the Stream of Consciousness of the Soul of the believer MUST emphasize his integrity, honor and

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