

Evangelical Essentials

In things essential, unity.

In things nonessential, liberty.

And in all things, charity.

An American Christian,
a German Christian, and
a Dutch Christian

Cultural sin =
perceived sin, not actual sin

Conservative versus Liberal

Liberal

Conservative

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Harvard Duke Wheaton Bob Jones

Not Conservative or Liberal,
but Biblical

Martin Luther,
John Wycliffe,
Galileo,
Tertullian,
and Jesus

Essentials versus Nonessentials

Would I consider someone a
heretic/non-Christian if they
believe differently from me on
this matter?

List of Essentials

- the authority of Scripture
- the dual nature of Christ
- the Trinity
- the exclusivity of Christ with regard to accessing God the Father
- promoting the gospel as a duty of all believers
- conversion (being born again) as a prerequisite for all genuine believers
- the necessity of Christ's death and resurrection

List of Nonessentials

- predestination
- role of women
- method of baptism
- end times
- Lord's Supper
- church government

How do we handle differences?

Romans 14-15

“weak” and “strong”

Evangelical Interpretation

Principles of Interpretation

- 1) The Bible must remain the highest authority.
- 2) Not slavish literalism, recognition of different ways of interpreting Scripture
- 3) We do not worship the Bible.
- 4) We trust that the Bible is the Word of God and inspired by the Holy Spirit.

Should we take the Bible as our sole authority?

Should we allow women to preach?

Should we drink beer or not?

Should we be doing infant or believers' baptism?

Should we be eco-friendly?

Should we be okay with speaking in tongues?

Should women be allowed to wear makeup and jewelry?

Should we allow interracial dating?

What color should the church carpet be?

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