

The First Principles

Class 8 • The Birmingham Amended Statement of Faith

- We've developed an excellent "Index to First Principles"
- We'd now like to compare it to the Birmingham Amended Statement of Faith
- Remembering, we are looking at these things, to try to keep clear in our heads what is a First Principle, and what is just helpful exposition.
- I've summarized the Statement, as I hope that most of you are familiar with it...
- COMPARE
- Discussion:
 - No Doctrine of One Body
 - No Discussion of Breaking Bread
 - No recognition of Justification by Faith
 - Over insistence on prophetic and future things
- What else?
- Let's review what we've learned:
 - We remain "In Fellowship" with people who hold radically different opinions on some topics, but are very restrictive about what they believe on others...
 - Those are the "First Principles"
 - "First Principles" are the set of beliefs that you are required to understand and believe before your baptism is valid, and you are eligible for salvation.
 - Our "Statement of Faith" is not a list of the First Principles...
 - Ideally, the three should be the same:
 - First Principles are the Doctrines essential to salvation

- These Doctrines are the ones that you need to believe before baptism
- Your Statement of Faith should consist of these Doctrines
- Most of the First Principles are in the Statement of Faith, but it also contains much other helpful exposition. Exposition that is profitable for us to know...
- But, not necessarily First Principles