

**Soul Edifice: Foundation: Christ, Colonnades: Doctrine, Entablature: Humility; Internecine Squabbles; Rationales: the Local Church Is the Only Source of Truth**

24. Such a circumstance means application of doctrine occurs at peak efficiency, minus the distraction and discord fomented by internecine squabbles over “exceedingly small issues.”
25. The “true issues” are (1) Christ, the foundation, (2) doctrine, the colonnades, and (3) humility, the entablature.
26. Any disagreement among those in a local church that damages the construction of this edifice is an “exceedingly small issue” and those involved cause instability among the columns and are absent humility.
27. Verse 15’s concluding phrase reads: “... the church of the living God, the column and foundation of the truth.”
28. The word for truth is the word for doctrine, **ἀλήθεια, alētheia**. The local church is a building built by men, but those who gather there include those who, through positive volition, develop an inventory of truth that is constructed on the firm foundation of Jesus Christ and His gospel followed by the accumulation of doctrines that result in a double-column advance to spiritual maturity.
29. The church of the living God is the classroom where truth is exposed, expounded, and extolled: (1) exposed by making it known, (2) expounded by setting it forth in precise and often elaborate detail, and (3) extolled by glorification and high praise.
30. In direct opposition to this in first-century Ephesus was the temple of Artemis. By contrast today, the church of the living God remains the divinely authorized institution for the dissemination of truth while the temple of Artemis lies in ruins as testimony to the futility of the lie.
31. At the temple of Artemis people worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator. Likewise, when believers assemble in the church of the living God without humility they trend toward self-centeredness and worship themselves, the creature, while pretending to worship the Creator, Christ. This is the hypocrisy of blind arrogance.
32. Soul erosion leads to soul ruin. Discord involves the recruitment of associates. One group united in opposition to another is a clique, an internecine squabble, each faction that following its leader like lemmings.
33. That there are those in this church that are so easily recruited into following someone into commission of sin, a sign that diatribes such as this are necessary.
34. This is the classroom constituted by God for the communication of truth and there is no other institution in the devil’s world where this truth can be discovered.
35. Lucifer is the present ruler of this world. He manipulates his emissaries with the lie, some of whom Christ identifies as the Pharisees in:

**John 8:44** - “You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth [ ἀλήθεια, *alētheia* ] because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie [ ψεῦδος, *pseudos* ] he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”

36. Under what rationales do I contend that the source of all truth is found in the local church? This can be answered with twelve principles:
- 1) The Bible is the completed canon of Scripture.
  - 2) It is God’s revelation of His inerrant and immutable message to man.
  - 3) The Bible is accurate in all its parts; when it quotes Lucifer or his policies the information is true but it is not truth.
  - 4) When the Bible quotes God or His policies the information is absolute truth.
  - 5) The Bible reveals that the universe – its energy, matter, space, and time – was created by Jesus Christ at a beginning that was not a beginning.
  - 6) Christ is eternal and preexisted the universe. The universe is temporal whose beginning occurred ex nihilo.
  - 7) This Latin term means that where nothing previously existed, in a Planck-time moment everything existed without reliance upon any preexisting materials.
  - 8) This means that the laws of physics that the Lord employs to maintain order in His creation were also created by Him.
  - 9) Therefore, what are referred to as “scientific laws” are in reality “God’s laws” which man has discovered.
  - 10) If there is a conflict between what God reveals and what man allegedly has discovered then the biblical revelation is truth and man’s discovery is erroneous due to lack of complete knowledge of the subject.
  - 11) Nevertheless, man has discovered some of the abstract and concrete phenomena of God’s creation.
  - 12) When he does he discovers a truth that has existed since the creation and whose inventor is God.
37. In the Church Age the divinely established institution for conveying truth to man is the local church.
38. If the local church fails in its duty then man must opt for human-viewpoint rationales to describe what he thinks he has discovered.
39. These rationales are then communicated to the world through man-centered educational curricula, e.g., (1) psychology, sociology, and philosophy, et al., (2) theories that have no confirming experimental documentation for validation, (3) ideologies that violate the laws of divine establishment while promoting political and social agenda, and (4) rhetorical veils that conceal while advancing an interest group’s hidden agenda.

40. The local church must maintain its unique status as the divine κηρύσσω, *kērussō* to the devil's world: the divine herald of immutable truth, not only to the believers who assemble upon its foundation of Christ and His gospel, but also, evangelically, to a disordered and increasingly corrupt client nation.

**1 Timothy 3:14** - These things I am writing to you, though with absolute confidence I will come face-to-face with you very soon.

**v. 15** - But if I am delayed, I write for the purpose that you may know how one ought to habitually conduct himself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the column and foundation of the truth.

41. Each person who assembles here has an obligation before the Lord to “know how one ought to habitually conduct himself in the house of God.”
42. Grace Doctrine Church is a “church of the living God,” divinely commissioned to construct doctrinal columns in the souls of the positive who assemble in this room.
43. Through genuine humility, each of you has equal privileges and equal opportunities to use your divinely provided assets to learn, know, and apply biblical truth to life and circumstances.
44. It is an insult to the grace of God that “exceedingly small issues” are causing some of you to behave poorly and, through sins of the tongue, involve others in the sins that sow discord.