





Ready to Leave...

Hebrews 6:1

... the elementary doctrine of Christ

“let us move beyond the elementary teachings...” (NIV)

“we must progress beyond the elementary instructions...” (NET)

“let us get past the elementary stage in the teachings...” (AMP)

“leaving the doctrine of the first principles...” (ASV)

- **We cannot abandon the first principles**
 - First principles are necessary and appropriate for new Christians
 - We all need to review them from time to time (2 Pet. 1:12)
- **In time we ought to “get past”, “progress” and “move beyond” the basic doctrinal teachings of Christianity**

What is the foundation?

- ***“the elementary doctrine of Christ” (6:1-2)***
 - Repentance
 - Faith
 - Instructions about washings (*baptismos*)
 - Laying on of hands
 - The resurrection
 - Eternal Judgment
- ***“the basic principles of the oracles of God” (5:12)***
 - “the substance of the Christian religion, Hebrews 5:12; of the **utterances** of God through Christian teachers, 1 Peter 4:11.” [Thayer] / “any basic teaching” - King
 - How God has communicated His will
 - Organization, work and worship of the local church

Why do we always have to lay it again?

- **Lack of maturity (5:12-13)**

- *“You need milk, not solid food, for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child.”*
- When we feed ourselves on uninspired words

- **Dullness of hearing (5:11)**

- We become lazy listeners - we listen but don't “hear”
- For example, 5:12 and 7:14 should end all arguments from silence

- **Lack of discernment (5:14)**

- Lack of training and practice in measuring with God's revealed standard

- **Moving beyond the basics is prerequisite to “go on to maturity”**

- If we never grow up, we will never move on

Some only have an appetite for the basics

- **Naïvely mistake milk for solid food**
- **Results in a self-satisfied, issue-oriented religion**
 - Cultivates a set of doctrinal positions instead of a relationship with God
 - Will speak the truth, but not always in love...
- **Are not really interested in the “*weightier matters of the Law*”**
 - Equate “faithful attendance to services” with “faithful service”
 - Can tell you what the church can’t do, but rarely do what the individual can
- **Some are content to be informed without being transformed**
- **Ironically, often these think they are the most mature among us**
- **Perfectly comfortable in the revolving door**

Some can't or won't come to conclusions

- **The Holy Spirit describes that condition as “weak” (2 Tim. 3:6-7)**
- **Some conclude we can't discern between good and evil**
 - As if we can't “*discern what is pleasing to the Lord.*” (Eph. 5:10)
 - Paul thought we could read and understand (Eph. 3:4)
- **Some are willing to speak some truth, if it seems “loving” to them**
 - That's not our marching orders (Eph. 4:15)
- **Ironically, often these think they are the most mature among us**
- **Claim to want to escape the revolving door, but...**
 - They keep on questioning foundational doctrines, so...
 - Right back into the revolving door we go

How do we escape the revolving door?

- We go on the maturity...
- We grow up
- We listen more carefully to the oracles of God
- We believe what God has said about His word
- We pursue personal holiness and doctrinal correctness
- We speak the truth in love
- When we decide we really want out of the revolving door, we will *“leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity”*
- *“And this we will do if God permits.”*



**I'm Ready to
Leave...**

**Who's with
me?**

