

# THE NATURE OF BELIEF

DO I BELIEVE?

WHAT DO I BELIEVE?

HOW DO I KNOW I BELIEVE?

# THE NATURE OF BELIEF

1. Belief's focus is always God Himself (vs 1-5)
2. Belief's power is always in God's Word (vs. 6-9)
3. Belief's path is always self-denial (vs 10)
4. Belief always causes division (vs 11-16)
  1. Division always based on God's Word (vs 16)
5. Belief always results in a willing heart (vs 17)
6. Belief always results in God's glory (18)
  - Rom. 4:20-21; 1 Cor. 10:31; Col. 3:17, 23
  - 1 Peter 4:11

# THE NATURE OF BELIEF

-What does 'belief' look like...

1. We live by the law of love (vs. 19-23)

- Romans 13:10; James 2:8
- 1 John 3:16-18; 4:7-12
- Matthew 5:43-48

# THE NATURE OF BELIEF

-What does 'belief' look like...

1. We live by the law of love (vs. 19-23)
2. We judge with righteous judgment (vs. 24)
  - Isaiah 11:1-5
  - 2 Critical questions:
    - Is the person a believer or unbeliever?
      - Matthew 18:15-17 or 1 Cor. 5:9-13
    - Is the issue an essential or non-essential?
      - Romans 14; 1 Corinthians 8, 10

# THE NATURE OF BELIEF

-What does 'belief' look like...

– Critical Criteria:

- Check your heart (*Is there sin in my life?*)
- Check your motives (*Why am I doing this?*)
- Check your guidelines (Is my perspective Biblical?)
- Check your process (*What did Jesus do?*)
- Check your power (*Am I 'filled' with God's Spirit?*)
- Check your facts (*Do I see the situation accurately?*)

# THE NATURE OF BELIEF

-What does 'belief' look like...

- Critical Considerations for non-essentials:
  - Does it violate a Biblical command or principle?
  - Does it violate my conscience?
  - Does it violate the conscience of another?
  - Will it advance God's Kingdom?
  - What do my spiritual leaders think?
  - Does it please my heavenly Father?