



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 'belief' looks like...

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

- Romans 13:8-10; James 1:25; 2:8-13
- 1 John 3:16-18; 4:7-12
- Matthew 5:43-48

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-What 'belief' looks like...

1. We live by the law of love (vs. 19-23)
2. We 'judge' with righteous judgment (vs. 24)
 - Isaiah 11:1-5; 1 Peter 2:21-23
 - 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

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-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?*)

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-What 'belief' looks 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?