

## I. Posture of our Hearts

A. Doctrinal Stances - We must recognize varying degrees of importance regarding Biblical, end-time beliefs, and themes:

1. Essential Doctrines - Those of primary importance that are essential for fellowship and continuity of saving faith.
2. Core Convictions – These doctrines are held by our leadership team. We are confident that the Bible is very clear on these subjects. Every ministry has a set of core convictions that, if they compromise them, they are compromising all together. We are not open to changing our core convictions, but still respect and honor those who hold to different convictions. We don't break fellowship over core convictions.
3. Personal Opinions - Some teachings or themes we believe are Biblical, but they are opinions. Meaning we draw them as an implication from the Scripture. We believe they are informed opinions, but they are of a whole lesser level of weightiness

“In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, diversity; and in all things, love.”

B. Humility - We should present the Biblical message of the end times in a humility that promotes unity without compromising important truths. We acknowledge the value of other people who have totally different core convictions and opinions. I have friends who have very different views concerning core convictions about the book of Revelation. We have a great friendship. Our different views do not hinder our fellowship at all. Sometimes we talk about them, sometimes we have fun with them, but we honor each other. We always want to posture ourselves to learn and listen.

1. Any presentation of a detailed narrative of future events from a Biblical perspective must be tempered, knowing that history is littered with self-confident teachers who proudly overstated their position or were dogmatic where the Scriptures are not. We are to respect others with differing views on the end times, as long as Biblical essentials are upheld and sound. Teachers must be careful not to imply that their view on the end times is the only correct one.

C. Posture of a Berean – The Bereans received the teaching of Paul with eagerness and zeal to be taught. Then they searched the scriptures on their own under the guidance of the Holy Spirit to see if what he was teaching was true. This is what it means to be noble minded. (Pro. 2:1-5; Acts 17:10-11; 1 Thes. 2:13)

1. I want you to search the scriptures on our views as you seek to establish your own core convictions. As a teacher, I value the process of challenging ideas and interpretations because you develop your own core convictions through that process. Everyone in the body of Christ must discipline themselves to develop their own core convictions on the doctrines of the scriptures. This is our best defense against deception and immaturity. (1 Jhn. 4:1)

## II. Four Main Interpretative Views

- A. **Idealist** (Figurative View) – There is no historical or prophetic meaning in the book of Revelation. It is simply an allegorical story of Good vs Evil or God vs Satan. Good will win in the end.
- B. **Preterist** (Figurative View) – The events in Revelation as being fulfilled in the past, believing nearly all the prophecies in the Book of Revelation have already been fulfilled usually in context to the destruction of Jerusalem and the fall of Rome in the first 3 centuries after Christ. However, Jesus said the Book of Revelation was clearly prophecy and not history – which leads to the debate over the dating of the book.
- C. **Historical** (Figurative View) – Revelation is as a progressive unfolding of Church history from the Book of Acts until the Second Coming. Historicists believe that most of Revelation has already been fulfilled, concluding that it seems unreasonable to suppose that a major portion of Biblical prophecy must wait for fulfillment until after the Rapture of the Church.
- D. **Future** (*Literal View*) - View (Rev. 1-3) as historically fulfilled yet prophetically relevant, and (Rev. 4-5) as a future event in heaven and (Rev. 6-22) as referring to future events literally happening on earth and released at Jesus' Second Coming. This view believes that very few events or passages found in the book of Revelation are symbolic but rather literal. In other words it means what it says and it says what it means. This is the view I will primarily teach as it is my personal core conviction and the core conviction of this leadership team here at Restoration Fellowship. This view has also been the dominant view of much of the Christian church throughout history.

## III. Main Structure

- A. The book of Revelation can be separated into Four Main Parts

1. John's calling to prophesy about the end times (Rev. 1)
2. Jesus gives seven pastoral letters to seven churches (Rev. 2-3)
3. Jesus receives the scroll in the throne room (Rev. 4-5)
4. Jesus executes His plan to restore all things (Rev. 6-22)

#### **IV. Structure of the Restoration Plan (Rev. 6-22)**

- A. Chronological Sections – There are 5 chronological sections of Jesus' restorative plan. "Chronological" meaning it's a progression of sequential events from the beginning of the institution of the plan to its completion.
  
- B. Angelic Explanations – The chronological sections are accompanied by angles explaining to John in greater detail the events of chronological sections. A practical image of this would be putting a movie on pause to explain it to someone who just walked in the room.
  1. Chronological Section of the Seal Judgments (Rev. 6)
    - a. Angelic Explanation (Rev. 7)
  
  2. Chronological Section of Trumpet Judgments (Rev. 8-9)
    - b. Angelic Explanation (Rev. 10-11:14)
  
  3. Chronological Section when Jesus Returns to Earth (Rev. 11:15-19)
    - c. Angelic Explanation (Rev. 11:20-14)
  
  4. Chronological Section of Bowl Judgments (Rev. 15-16)
    - d. Angelic Explanation (Rev. 17-19:10)
  
  5. Chronological Section of Jesus sets up His Kingdom (Rev. 19:11-21:8)
    - e. Angelic Explanation (Rev. 21:9-22)