

## SS Doctrine 11 Fundamentalism

Tom Tillman

What is fundamentalism... the media and false teachers say that fundamentalists are somehow nuts, that fundamentalism equals fanaticism. A fundamentalist is a fanatic... he is, in fact, a murderous fanatic! And it usually has to do with religion... religious fundamentalists are really just good old fashioned religious fanatics.

We're all being led... and trained to think-and-believe in ways that reflect the world view of the kingdom of darkness, led by the prince of darkness.

Abortion is good... religious fundamentalists say it's bad... they kill innocent-abortion-workers.

Homosexuality is very good... religious fanatics say it's very bad... they kill innocent gay people.

a fundamentalist is a murderous religious fanatic...

A Muslim fundamentalist is simply any Muslim who believes and practices what his 'bible' the Koran says.

Oh no, we are taught... the vast majority of Muslims are peace loving model citizens... it's the religion of peace, after all.

A Muslim fundamentalist is one who has gone off the deep end... not a real Muslim, but an islamist... islamist... they had to invent a new term, to take the heat off Muslims.

No... again... A Muslim fundamentalist is simply any Muslim who believes and practices what the Koran says.

What about Christian fundamentalists... we are told that they are those like the Ku Klux Klan, or Survivalists... snake handlers in the backwoods of TN... or those who believe in states' rights and individual rights... flag toting, Bible thumping ignorant buffoons... and so... more and more Christians are believing those lies and expressing disgust at the thought anyone thinking of them as a fundamentalist... now they're starting to call them christianists.

You see... Satan has always had an ultimate plan... that he would be like God... remember what God says in Isaiah 14...

"How you are fallen from heaven,  
O Lucifer, son of the morning!  
<sup>13</sup> For you have said in your heart:  
'I will ascend into heaven,  
I will exalt my throne above the stars of God;  
I will also sit on the mount of the congregation  
On the farthest sides of the north;  
I will ascend above the heights of the clouds,  
I will be like the Most High.'

His plan has been that he would actually defeat and replace the Lord Jesus Christ... to rule from Heaven... and the culmination of his plan is to eventually be able to present his false messiah, the antichrist... and he's always planned to eventually be able to successfully marginalize and then destroy all true Christians, as well as Jews.

He has now taken it all the way... to where... not only does the world... in the kingdom of darkness... despise true Christians... but now... even the mainline denominations... Methodist, Presbyterian, Episcopal and others have only contempt for Evangelical and Fundamentalist Christians... and even many so called Evangelicals want nothing to do with the name fundamentalist, of with the people they believe to be fundamentalists.

Jesus, Paul, Peter, John and Jude... all warned that in the last days there would rise up from among the Church, false teachers, wolves in sheep's clothing, bringing another gospel... preaching a false gospel... and we are seeing it all around us today.

**2 Pet 2:1** But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, *and* bring on themselves swift destruction.<sup>2</sup> And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed.<sup>3</sup> By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words.

**1 Tim 4:1** Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to **deceiving spirits** and **doctrines of demons**, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron.

**2 Tim 4:2** Preach the word! Be ready in season *and* out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.<sup>3</sup> For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, *because* they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;<sup>4</sup> and they will turn *their* ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

**Matt 7:15** Jesus said... Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.<sup>16</sup> You will know them by their fruits.

**2 John 1:7** For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ *as* coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

**2 John 1:9** He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.<sup>10</sup> If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him;<sup>11</sup> for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.

**Gal 1:6** I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel,<sup>7</sup> which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.<sup>8</sup> But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.

Acts 20:29 For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.<sup>30</sup> Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.

John 6:64 For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him. And He said, "Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father." From that *time* many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.

So... there are many false teachers, teaching doctrines of demons... teaching the lies of deceiving spirits... anyone who believes these lies and turns from the true Gospel is not a true believer... but one in name only... of which there are multiplied millions around the world.

So then... what really is a fundamentalist Christian? My Aunt and Uncle, John and Audrey Foster always proudly considered themselves fundamentalists... in fact, Uncle Johnny wrote a book titled... 'Four Northwest Fundamentalists.'

A few old time names you might be familiar with who were fundamentalists were... Harry Ironsides, Scofield... of the Scofield Bible... R.A. Torrey, Charles Spurgeon, John Calvin, Dr. Walter Hinson... and later... Adrian Rogers and Charles Stanley... just to name a few.

What makes a person a fundamentalist... a true fundamentalist is simply one who believes the basic fundamentals of the Christian Faith, as taught by Jesus, Peter, Paul, John, James and Jude.

In the late 19th Century, much of the Church was turning aside from the true faith as taught by the biblical writers... The Enlightenment of the 18th Century... Charles Darwin's theory of evolution... 'Higher Biblical Criticism invading the Eastern Seminaries... the rise of the purely Social Gospel in the Mainline Denominations...

The fundamentalists were those who tried to maintain a grip on the truth of Scripture... standing against the rising tide of 'modernism.' They met together to express in writing what they considered to be the truth of Scripture and of the Gospel.

The **modernist controversy** of the late 19th and early 20th centuries denied the **authority and inerrancy of Scripture**. Those who opposed this new found liberalism were called "Fundamentalists," they were named after a document they drafted called "*The Fundamentals*." Much like the early church, when they were challenged on core beliefs, they came up with the written creeds to codify what they believed as the true church.

The five basic doctrines of the Christian faith are taken from a book called "The Fundamentals" edited by R.A. Torrey with contributors such as H.A. Ironsides and C.I. Scofield. In 1909, God led two Christian laymen to set aside a large sum of money for issuing twelve volumes which would set forth the **fundamentals of the Christian faith**. These were called **The Fundamentals**, and consisted of messages written by well-known defenders of the faith from several different denominations. These twelve volumes of The Fundamentals were mailed free to over 300,000 ministers, missionaries and other Christian workers in different parts of the world. The response was huge. The Bible Institute of Los Angeles (BIOLA) printed additional copies to meet the demand and finally combined the volumes into a four volume. It was written as a **defense of the Christian faith against liberalism**, and is helpful even today in recognizing heresy from truth.

From the turn of the last century, the term fundamentalist was used as a term of derision by liberal Christianity to marginalize and discredit Christians seeking to hold true to the truth of God's Word... to distinguish those weirdos... from themselves... the real Christians... the liberal, thoughtful, caring, modern Christians.

So what are those 5 fundamental doctrines of Scripture which can distinguish between an accurate understanding of the Gospel and belief that can actually be drifting into heresy?

What are the 5 basic fundamentals of the Christian Faith which supposedly turns one into a wild eyed, foaming at the mouth, murderous fundamentalist... on par with the Muslim fundamentalists?

They are:

1. **The Deity of Jesus Christ**, that He is truly man and truly God.
2. **The Virgin Birth of Jesus Christ**.
3. **Atonement of our sin by the shed blood** of the Lord Jesus Christ.
4. The Physical **Bodily Resurrection** of the Lord Jesus Christ.

## 5. The **Inerrancy** and Complete Reliability of the Scriptures themselves.

As you can see... crazy stuff... and if you think about it... these are the 5 basic doctrines that modernists deny in their belief systems.

Sometimes the list may vary... one might include the Trinity, another perhaps the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, or Salvation by Grace through Faith.

Of course it is not necessary that one fully understand all of these to be a true child of God... the thief on the Cross certainly didn't... many have never been taught a full understanding of the Gospel... certainly it is enough to believe that Jesus Christ is God's Son and that He died on the Cross to pay for my sins, and that I must put my faith and trust in Him alone for Salvation.

On the other hand... it's a different matter altogether if one **disbelieves** any of these fundamentals of the faith... that he has heard the truth but then **chooses to disbelieve that truth**.

Many lesser doctrines of Scripture can be misunderstood and even disbelieved, but these fundamentals of the faith, these are the foundation upon which true saving faith is built.

Are you a fundamentalist? Well... let's just see. I'll bet we all are...

### 1. **Is Jesus Christ really God, the Son of God?**

**John 1:1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

**John 20:28** And Thomas answered and said to Him, My Lord and my God!

**Hebrews 1:8** But to the Son (Jesus Christ) *He says:*

“Your throne, O God, *is* forever and ever;  
A scepter of righteousness *is* the scepter of Your kingdom.  
<sup>9</sup>You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness;  
Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You  
With the oil of gladness more than Your companions.

### 2. **Was Mary really a virgin when she conceived the Lord Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit?**

**Isaiah 7:14** Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

They like to say, the word here is *alma*, which means a young woman... that's brilliant... what sense does that make... God says He will give a miraculous sign... a young woman will get pregnant. That is pretty darn miraculous... how did He ever pull that off?

**Matthew 1:23** “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.

On the other hand... the Greek word here is *parthenos*... which means only unmarried virgin...

**Luke 1:27** Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.... then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And behold, you will

conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus... then Mary said to the angel, **“How can this be, since I do not know a man?” I'm a virgin...** And the angel answered and said to her, *“The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.*

### **3. Is our sin really fully and only atoned for by the shed Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ?**

**Acts 20:28** Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

**Romans 3:23** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth *as* a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness

**Romans 5:8** But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

**Ephesians 1:7** In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace which He made to abound toward us

**Hebrews 9:12** Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

### **4. Did Jesus Christ really rise from the dead physically, bodily?**

**Luke 24:36** Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, “Peace to you.” But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit. And He said to them, “Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have.” When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, “Have you any food here?” So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb. And He took *it* and ate in their presence.

**1 Corinthians 15:3, 14** For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup> and that He was seen by Peter, then by the twelve. <sup>6</sup> After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup> After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. <sup>8</sup> Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time... **14** And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching *is* empty and your faith *is* also empty

### **5. Is all Scripture really true and accurate?**

**Psalms 12:6** The words of the LORD *are* pure words,  
*Like* silver tried in a furnace of earth,  
Purified seven times.

<sup>7</sup> You shall keep them, O LORD,  
You shall preserve them from this generation forever.

**2 Timothy 3:16** All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

**2 Peter 1:20** knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke *as they were* moved by the Holy Spirit.

This fifth one is the only true basis we have for belief and truth... if you'll remember, this was the very first important Doctrine of the Faith which we studied in this current series... the Inerrancy of Scripture... and it is the turning from this central truth, based as it is on the very Character of God Himself... that has led to the rise of liberal 'Christianity' and so many cults...

Joseph Smith claimed to have received 'another gospel' from the angel moroni which led to the cult of Mormonism. Charles Taze Russel claimed to have received 'another gospel' which led to the cult of Jehovah's Witnesses. Mary Baker Eddie claimed to have received new truth which led the cult of the Christian Scientists. Ellen G. White claimed to have received new revelation which led to the error and possibly cult status of 7th Day Adventism... to name only a few...

Many would adhere fully to all of these Fundamentals of the Christian Faith, and yet, if you asked them if they were a fundamentalist... they would say, no way!' That is testament to the effectiveness of the propaganda from the media and those who are actively turning away from the faith in what the Bible calls 'the apostasy, or the falling away, predicted for the last days, shortly before Jesus Christ return.

I'll end our discussion of the **fundamentals of the faith** by quoting Rick Warren, supposedly America's Pastor... to Larry King on the subject of fundamentalism... and keep in mind, Rick Warren is not stupid... he knows the true meaning of all these terms and labels... but he chooses to parrot the belief and teaching of the kingdom of darkness...

he says... "But what happened is... Protestantism split into two wings, the fundamentalists and the mainline churches. And the mainline churches tended to take the social action issues of Christianity – caring for the sick, for the poor, the dispossessed, racial justice and things like that... it's as if he is saying that the Mainliners were the ones who split off from the fundamentalist who didn't really care about their fellow man... it's interesting to realize that much of Rick Warren's ministry and teaching is in fact built around a social gospel. He goes on to say... Today there really aren't that many Fundamentalists left; I don't know if you know that or not, but they are such a minority; there aren't that many Fundamentalists left in America"

Here he's implying that... Obviously the fundamentalists are wrong... because there are so few of them left... and as my book clearly teaches... the mark of a true Church, blessed by God is that it grows to megachurch size... like Saddleback... don't you know...

Her says... "Now the word "fundamentalist" actually comes from a document in the 1920s called the Five Fundamentals of the Faith. And it is a very legalistic, narrow view of Christianity", and when I say there are very few fundamentalists... I mean in the sense that they are all actually called fundamentalist churches, and those would be quite small. There are no large ones. ... that group is shrinking more and more and more"

So....believing these five truths of the Gospel is a very legalistic and narrow view... did you know that you are very legalistic and narrow minded?

He calls it a very legalistic and narrow view of Christianity...

He is closer to the truth than he knows when he speaks of narrow and few...

**In Matt 7:13...** Jesus said, 'Enter by the **narrow** gate; for wide *is* the gate and broad *is* the way that leads to destruction, and there are **many** who go in by it. <sup>14</sup> Because **narrow** *is* the gate and difficult *is* the way which leads to life, and there are **few** who find it.'

Larry King then asks, "Before we talk about Rick Warren's peace plan, are you a fundamentalist?"

WARREN says, "No. Actually... many journalists misunderstand... the religious right is not a fundamentalist and a fundamentalist is not an evangelical. There are all kinds of fundamentalists, Larry, and they're all based on fear. There are Christian fundamentalists. There are Muslim fundamentalists. I've met some Jewish fundamentalists." No doubt... let's be sure that we also discredit the Jews who believe.

From the Philadelphia Inquirer, "Warren predicts that fundamentalism, of all varieties, will be "one of the big enemies of the 21st century." "Muslim fundamentalism, Christian fundamentalism, Jewish fundamentalism, secular fundamentalism – they're all motivated by fear," he said. "Fear of each other."

It's tragic that those... considered by so many to be teachers of the Word... to see them veer off into the belief of fables and the doctrines of demons...

So... are you really a fundamentalist... or not?

Which of those 5 foundational doctrines of Christianity would you choose to deny so that they wouldn't call you... an evil fundamentalist. We don't have to wear the title fundamentalist to be true believers... but never forget Jesus' Words...

Matt 10:32 "Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. <sup>33</sup> But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

These past 12 weeks we have studied several important Doctrines of the Faith... Inerrancy of the Word... Perseverance of the Saints-Security of the Believer... Divine Election... Eschatology-End Times... Angels&Demons... Fruit of the Spirit... and Fundamentalism.

Any final questions on any of these...

I've been honored to be with you... I look forward to the next time we are together. You are a great class.

Thank you for your encouragement and kind attention each week.

Tom

narrow way

On the Fundamentals of the Faith Warren had commented: "But what happened is Protestantism split into two wings, the fundamentalists and the mainline churches. And the mainline churches tended to take the social action issues of Christianity – caring for the sick, for the poor, the dispossessed, racial justice and things like that. Today there really aren't that many Fundamentalists left; I don't know if you know that or not, but they are such a minority; there aren't that many Fundamentalists left in America"

"Now the word "fundamentalist" actually comes from a document in the 1920s called the Five Fundamentals of the Faith. And it is a very legalistic, narrow view of Christianity", and when I say there are very few fundamentalists, I mean in the sense that they are all actually called fundamentalist churches, and those would be quite small. There are no large ones. ... that group is shrinking more and more and more"

Warren is right; it is narrow, and for a good reason. Our Lord said there is only the narrow road to follow Him - what we believe will shape how and what we follow. Churches that still preach the gospel in clarity (addressing sin, explaining righteousness and judgment) hold to the fundamentals of the faith. The Five Fundamentals of Faith that have been accepted by Christians throughout its history everywhere are: 1. The Deity of our Lord Jesus Christ. 2. The Virgin Birth. 3. The Blood Atonement. 4. The Bodily Resurrection. 5. The inerrancy of the scriptures.

hold to the Christian distinctive that the church has held throughout its history. Just because churches are not mega size or smaller does not mean they are less effective. In fact the average church would be 100 members or less. Warren makes a standard that is not a biblical one, that church size equals effectiveness and proclaiming the truth.

One can be either a Charismatic or a cessationist and still be a fundamentalist in *these core doctrines*

In his Larry King Interview KING asks: "Before we talk about Rick Warren's peace plan, are you a fundamentalist?"

WARREN: "No. Actually, many journalists misunderstand the religious right is not a fundamentalist and a fundamentalist is not an evangelical. There are all kinds of fundamentalists, Larry, and they're all based on fear. There are Christian fundamentalists. There are Muslim...There are Muslim fundamentalists. I've met some Jewish fundamentalists."

KING: "You bet.

WARREN: "You know what there are secular fundamentalists. Secular fundamentalists they're all -- all kinds of fundamentalists are based on fear and secular fundamentalists are afraid of God....

KING: "So, what are you? You're not a fundamentalist. You're an evangelical.

WARREN: "I'm an evangelical, yes.

KING: Meaning you preach the gospel.

WARREN: Evangelicals would say three things. Evangelical comes from the Greek word which means good news. Evangel means good news. And, I believe that the Bible is the word of God. I believe that Jesus is who he said he was and I believe I should share the good news with other people. I do not believe in coercion. I believe in conversion. If you have to force it, it's not conversion" (Interview With Rick Warren Larry King Live December 2, 2005).

Rick Warren, in the Philadelphia Inquirer stated, "Warren predicts that fundamentalism, of all varieties, will be "one of the big enemies of the 21st century." "Muslim fundamentalism, Christian fundamentalism, Jewish fundamentalism, secular fundamentalism – they're all motivated by fear," he said. "Fear of each other."

How anyone can equate Christian fundamentalism (which means that one is adhering to the core beliefs presented in the Bible, as he stated in his Pew Interview) as the same as Islamic fundamentalism is beyond me. It does not seem rationale. These are two completely different concepts. It amazes me how someone who is supposed to represent Christianity can have something this negative to say about what makes Christianity distinct from other religions and cults, our fundamentals.

Where does the term fundamentalist come from? The modernist controversy of the late 19th and early 20th centuries denied the authority and inerrancy of Scripture. Those who opposed their new found liberalism were called "Fundamentalists," they were named after a document drafted called "*The Fundamentals*." Much like the early church, when they were challenged on core beliefs, they came up with the creeds to codify what they believed as the church.

"The five basic doctrines of the Christian faith are taken from a book called "The Fundamentals" edited by R.A. Torrey with contributors such as H.A. Ironside and C.I. Scofield." It "Consisted of messages written by well-known defenders of the faith from several different denominations. These twelve volumes of The Fundamentals were mailed free to over 300,000 ministers, missionaries and other Christian workers in different parts of the world.

The cults that claim to be Christian deny at least one, if not all of the fundamentals. There should be no challenge by any Christian on these essential doctrines taught by the apostles in the gospels and their letters to the church.

Within Christianity, there's a large group of believers who affirm that there are certain facts about our faith that must be embraced, even if it isn't popular to proclaim these facts as true. These are facts such as – Jesus was God in the flesh God raised Jesus from the dead, and The Resurrection opened the singular path available for men and women to intimately and eternally connect with God.

These are among the fundamental truths of our Christian faith (or, to use another phrase, they are foundational truths to our faith).

Now, if you believe that these fundamental truths are essential to the Christian faith, then you are a "fundamentalist" in the very basic sense of the word, and within that definition and context Saddleback Church is unapologetically fundamentalist.

There is, however, another kind of fundamentalism that has nothing to do with fundamentals of the Christian faith; instead, it is about keeping the right rules in the right way order to please the right people."

They make it clear it is not referring to God-spoken standards; "I'm referring to the fanatical pursuit of keeping – and insisting that others keep – rules that are man-made and often culturally influenced, rules that insist all Christians must look, act, and smell the same in order to be considered genuine believers.

That is a category mistake of no small magnitude. What he is saying would be labeled as legalism, NOT fundamentalism. Warren knows what the term means

"Now the word "fundamentalist" actually comes from a document in the 1920's called the Five Fundamentals of the Faith. And it is a very legalistic, narrow view of Christianity"

“This form of fundamentalism is, quite frankly, just another form of religion, one that diminishes the intimate relationship we have with God through Jesus Christ. This religion requires that we follow every jot and tittle of the law in order to be holy before God,”

That is what we call a cult, not fundamentalism.



