

RECOMMENDATION: We Are NOT Heretics

Where do we go from here?

Here are the recommendations I believe flow out of knowing what a heretic is from a NT perspective¹ – a fellowship divider, not a proponent of false doctrine.

I suggest that it is appropriate when there is any new doctrine (teaching), whether it is from revelation or a better understanding of scripture, or a correction of current doctrine, that:

- It needs to be aired and considered discerningly by everyone, especially those in leadership.
- There should be no frustration from those who agree with the new teaching while it's being evaluated.
- There should be no underhanded jockeying to encourage others to agree or disagree.
- No judgements should be made against those who agree or disagree.
- Unity of community must be maintained.
- No splits should be considered to maintain truth.

Further, following this investigation into heresy, I believe that we should:

- Not label others as heretics unless they fit the criteria that the NT uses.
- Not desire to cause or encourage church splits.
- Encourage others to maintain unity of community with their local church group.
- Advise others to change groups if they are completely unable to maintain unity with their current church community.
- Support those who come out of the church system.

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¹ – See the complete teaching in “COMMUNITY: Are We Heretics” (canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/are-we-heretics.pdf)