

Preface

Milk is essential!

I conducted a simple survey asking believers (not recent converts) to simply list the six basic teachings of Christ. The result was 90% could not. While some had never heard of such teaching, others discounted the value. But one who answered correctly remarked, “David, we've been blessed with a good teacher on the Foundational Principles as recorded in Hebrews 6:1-3. These are ingredients like that of cement. If you're solid in these teachings you will never be moved off of Christ the rock.” Well said, and I sent a note to his teacher parroting 3 John 1:4.

Thus, a critical and obvious need exists to reiterate what the first believers openly knew—six subjects Christ centered on and how to follow these. But looking around it appears to me that too many today have been fed a different set of doctrines; health, wealth, family, leadership, personal prophecy, worship, and miraculous powers, to name just a few. Not all bad, but these are not going to lead anyone to growth and maturity.

To grow as a child in God's family you must first drink the milk of the fundamental principles of Christ. I suggest you sip them slowly into your heart and mind. It has been my experience that living these principles is a guard against folly, and there is much folly to avoid in life. Further, without these principles it is impossible to consume or comprehend the spiritual food of the rest of the Word of God. You can't become mature (as defined by the writer of Hebrews) without them. Which hints that 90% of believers are not mature, no matter what they've learned, assumed, or experienced.

The Milky Way can help. It will lead you to the milk by an informal and organic method—conversation. It's a simple idea, I am not a teacher, but seem to have become an author, writer, or scribe in my later years. Thus, a devotional guide emerged that

The Milky Way!

encourages a conversation about the six doctrines of Christ. From this I pray that His Spirit will lead you into a deeper teaching. But, let Him lead you, rather than any man. This is the Milky Way. A conversation about The Milk comes first. Let His milk feed your soul. Dive deeper with Him. Walk in the truth.

He does not want us drinking the formulas or doctrines of men who love power and want people to follow them and their vain imaginations. So, His pure milk is clearly described. Our Father cares for us, and has planned good provision for His children. And as His children, we ought to commit to follow His advice. His milk first, and a lot of it. Here are some key verses.

For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this will we do, if God permit.

Hebrews 5:12 – 6:3

Think about it. The writer scolds the reader for not drinking enough milk. Everyone can grow and mature if they follow His plan, and should become able to teach the way to new believers.

The principles of the doctrine of Christ are underlined above. The Milky Way's layered format is depicted below so you can see the order of it and understand that your life, as a believer in Christ, rests on Him and on a substantial structure of

A Crucial Introduction to The Six Doctrines of Christ

His truth. It is His step-by-step plan. This is the milk, and this is what I call The Milky Way.

Steps On The Milky Way

6-eternal judgment

5-resurrection of the dead

4-laying on of hands

3-doctrine of baptisms

2-faith toward God

1-repentance from dead works

The Six Basic Doctrines of Christ

Study this structure for a while. Note how your steps are supported by Christ and His structure of the truth, and it's not the other way around. In other words, you don't make up the truth or the structure of it, rather, you find the truth in Christ's redemptive work, so you can learn to live by trusting in His words. This order benefits us, because it is founded on Him.

For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 3:11

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

John 1:14

And so, as the promise of eternal life comes to us by believing in His Son ... conversely, the promise of God's wrath comes by not believing in His Son, and by inference by not obeying His words.

The Milky Way!

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:16

He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

John 3:36

Such then, He provides a specific milk formula. We can drink it and grow strong, or reject it and risk the outcome, which is deception.

This milk is the spiritual basics we need to know and trust in order to grow. These doctrines are the path on which to walk and the foundation on which to build. Once you drink of this milk, you can go on to solid food in God's Word, and grow stronger into whatever mission Father has planned for you. But if you miss the milk, you will not likely, fully find, His mission for you. Ever.

Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

John 8:31-32

Remember, this book was written as an introduction to assist you in focusing on six key foundational principles, that He provided. My walk with Him and my personality has flavored the writing and conclusions. My forty years following Him, and observing those who do and don't is all that qualifies me to write on this subject. You might want to take a week for each lesson to give it time to sink in. I studied the milk for two years, five days a week, in one to two hour sessions, as a hungry babe

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in Christ many years ago. Today, I continue to find guidance and relevance in contemplating the six basic doctrines of Christ.

Walk slowly on the Milky Way. The milk is essential!

“Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts.”

Isaiah 28:9

Those who refuse the milk risk a poor outcome.

“... that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken.”

Isaiah 28:13b