



# HOPE FOR LIFE

BIBLICAL COUNSELING & EQUIPPING

for everything  
that was written in the past was  
written to teach us  
so that through endurance and  
the encouragement of the Scriptures  
we might have  
hope.

[romans 15:4]

SUMMER 2007

## BIBLICAL DISCERNMENT PRINCIPLE #15 "The Contending-For-The-Faith Principle"

Each *individual* believer is charged with the monumental duty to contend for the faith. It is the responsibility of *every* Christian to diligently discern and establish truth from error and to declare this Biblical certainty to others.

*I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints. [Jd 3]*

Here is the urgent reality: *You, not someone else, need to know the truth and warn others of false teaching. Every believer, not just a few "extra-special" Christians, are to actively discern truth from error by knowing, loving, and relying on God and His Word.*

*And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God. [Phil 1:9-11]*

Make it your mission to test everything that you read or hear. Always filter it through the grid of God's Word.

**Test everything.** Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil. [1 Thess 5:21-22]

Furthermore, realize that we are called not to merely detect and avoid error, but to *expose it*. We must not support false teachers or teaching in any way.

*Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. Therefore do not be partners with them. For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. [Eph 5:6-11]*

A casual attitude and approach to doctrine and teaching will never work. We must be passionate and persistent in our pursuit of truth. Can just one person make a difference? Yes, you can.

**Watch your life and doctrine closely.** Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers. [1 Tim 4:16]

## EQUIPPING CLASS COMING UP

Hope For Life is blessed to be able to offer a new equipping course here in Fresno. As we've had many people express a desire for an evening class for some time now, we're excited to see it become a reality.

The ten week training course, *Equipped For Life & Love*, is designed to equip anyone, whether in formal ministry or not, with the power and hope of God's Word as it relates to every aspect of life and love.

Of course, as Christians, it is essential that we first learn and apply God's perfect Word to our own hearts and lives before we can truly and effectively love and minister to others.

With this in mind, our prayer for everyone who invests in this training is that they will be enabled to dramatically deepen their understanding,

knowledge, appreciation of, and love for God and His Word. And that by doing this, they will be equipped to come alongside others.

This training is perfect for churches and ministries that want to provide their members with Biblical training in how to minister to others in a real and godly way.

The class is being hosted by Sierra Heights Baptist Church in Fresno on Monday evenings, beginning June 11<sup>th</sup>.

We've included a flyer with more details, which we've also added in a printable format to the website for anyone who would like to share them or insert them in their church bulletins.

More information is posted on our website at [hopeforlifeonline.com](http://hopeforlifeonline.com) as well as a form to register online.

## WEBSITE UPDATE [[hopeforlifeonline.com](http://hopeforlifeonline.com)]

In our last newsletter we were happy to announce the launch of the Hope For Life ministry website, so here's a current progress report.

There's been quite a bit of "traffic" to the site, which continues to increase, and we've now had visitors from all over the world.

Hundreds of people have downloaded the free articles and resources we've posted, with the most popular

being *The Anger Diagram* and Mark's *Book Review of Love & Respect*.

We continue to add to the website—with more on the way, including more *Biblical Discernment Principles* (see right), so come check it out.

We're so blessed to be able to share the hope and truth of God's Word with a wider audience, and we again want to sincerely thank all of you who make this ministry a reality.