

Doctrinal Studies

Aristocracy and Flexibility

- I. The Shepherd-Teacher has the job of rightly dividing the Word of Truth. This makes it possible for the congregation to understand something about essentials and non-essentials of life.
- II. As a believer receives the Word over a period of time he will be able to distinguish between the two.
- III. The essential is Spiritual Food Residing in the Soul (SFRIS) – non-essential means everything else in life!
- IV. You must be rigid, unyielding, inflexible, and refuse to permit any variation considering the essentials!
- V. You must always be pliant concerning the non-essential of life. Life is made up of flexibilities. The only place for inflexibility is in relationship to spiritual food!
- VI. SFRIS establishes the norms on which priorities are rated.
- VII. Without SFRIS the believer operates on erroneous norms.
- VIII. Jesus Christ distinguished between essential and non-essential when he put down the “horsey” woman in [Luke 11:27-28](#). Women can be so beautiful. Yet, there is nothing worse than a feisty, feuding, fussing, frothing, frustrated female!
 - a. In Luke 11 Jesus was giving a great doctrinal message. This woman was so arrogant and rude to interrupt *HIM!* She was going to put Jesus down by saying, *“There would not be a Jesus without a woman!”* Non-essential!
 - b. In [verse 28](#) Jesus presented the Essential. *“Nay, Happiness belongs to the one who keeps on hearing and keeps on retaining the Word of God.”* He was saying that *HAPPINESS COMES FROM SPIRITUAL FOOD RESIDING IN THE SOUL.*