





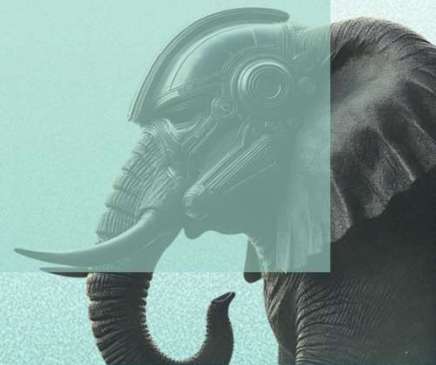
TABOO TWO:

The Elephant Strikes Back



Episodes of Taboo Two...

- Giving
- Women in the Church
- Men in the Church
- Uncomfortable Passages
- Denominational Differences*



Disclaimer

I am by no means an expert on this topic.

This topic is far too large to examine in detail in a 30 minute sermon.

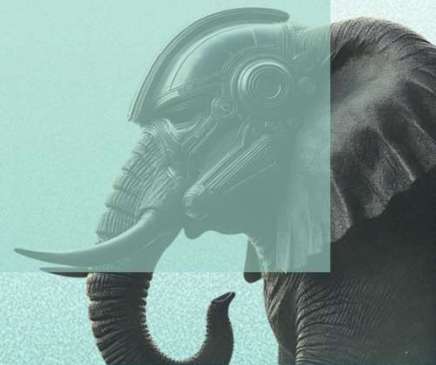
There are excellent resources available to help you dive deeper if you are interested.

This will be a lot of overview!



What are Denominations?

Denomination: (n.) a religious organization whose congregations are united in their adherence to its beliefs and practices
- Merriam Webster's Dictionary



Example Denominations

- Roman Catholicism
- Eastern Orthodox
- Protestant

Baptist

Methodist

Evangelical

Presbyterian

Lutheran

Non-denominational

Pentecostal/ Charismatic

Anglican/Episcopal



The Power of Doctrines

Doctrine (n.) a principle or position, or a body of principles in a branch of knowledge or system of belief ~Websters

Translation...

The beliefs that a group of people have relating to a topic.



So what makes us Christian?

If you are a Christian, then you believe...

- a) The Trinity- God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are one (Theology Proper)



Deuteronomy 6:4-5

⁴ Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God,
the LORD is one. ⁵ Love the LORD your God
with all your heart and with all your soul
and with all your strength.



Matthew 28:19

¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father *and* of the Son *and* of the Holy Spirit,



So what makes us Christian?

If you are a Christian, then you believe...

- a) The Trinity- God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are one (Theology Proper)
- b) Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary, died for our sins, and rose from the dead



John 1:14

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Jesus is from God



Isaiah 7:14

¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

Jesus is born of Mary



Matthew 1:18

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.

Miracle of Jesus Conception



2 Corinthians 5:21

²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Jesus died for our sins- he took our punishment.



Luke 24:36-39

³⁶ While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.”

³⁷ They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. ³⁸ He said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.”

Jesus rose from the dead!



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- b) Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary, died for our sins, and rose from the dead
- c) Jesus ascended into Heaven



Hebrews 4:14-16

¹⁴ Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. ¹⁶ Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.



So, what makes us Christian?

If you are a Christian, then you believe...

- a) The Trinity- God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are one (Theology Proper)
- b) Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary, died for our sins, and rose from the dead
- c) Jesus ascended into Heaven
- d) **Salvation by faith in Jesus**



John 3:16-18

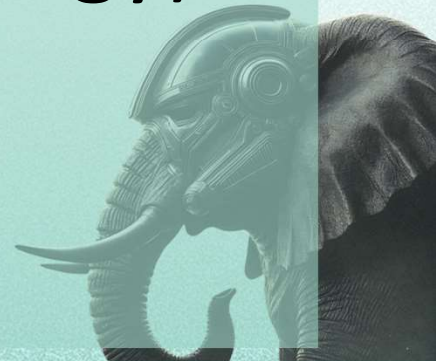
¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.



So, what makes us Christian?

If you are a Christian, then you believe...

- a) The Trinity- God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are one (Theology Proper)
- b) Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary, died for our sins, and rose from the dead
- c) Jesus ascended into Heaven
- d) Salvation by faith in Jesus
- e) The Bible- inspired by God, free of errors, and has authority (bibliology)



2 Timothy 3:16

¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,



So...Why Denominations?

People throughout history have had different views on different doctrines-

Put simply...

We can agree on some aspects of our faith, but not all of them.



Sacraments and Ordinances

A Christian rite or ritual that is believed to have special importance and/or significance believed to be ordained by God



Sacraments and Ordinances

Catholic Theology*: 7 Sacraments

- Baptism
- The Lord's Supper (Eucharist/communion)
- Reconciliation
- Confirmation
- Marriage
- Holy Orders
- Anointing of the Sick

*The orthodox church follows similar sacraments but has differing beliefs the sacraments themselves.



Sacraments and Ordinances

Protestant Theology: 2 Ordinances

- Baptism
- The Lord's Supper (Eucharist/communion)

Within even these two ordinances, are different doctrinal beliefs on the significance and importance of each



Baptism

The act of water washing away sin

Different Versions:

- Immersion
- Aspersio (sprinkling)
- Affusion (pouring)

Adult (credobaptism) vs. infant (paedobaptism)



Baptism: Roman Catholicism

- Infant Baptism (paedobaptism)- Pouring
- Represents the washing away of original sin
- Officially welcomes the child into the church family
- They are saved because of Jesus sacrifice for them
- Expected to grow up in the church learning more about Jesus



Baptism: Presbyterians

Presbyterian comes from the Greek word for “Elder”

- Baptism by Sprinkling
- Baptism of infants is it the New Testament sign of the covenant, much like Circumcision in the Old Testament



Baptism for Baptists

Greek word “baptizo” -> “to baptize”

- Many Baptist churches reject infant baptism (we don't)
- Baptism is a person's public declaration of faith
- Symbolizes the washing away of sins because of Jesus Sacrifice for us, and our being “born again” as a new creation



Romans 6:3-8

³ Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his.



Romans 6:3-8

⁶ For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—

⁷ because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

⁸ Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.



The Lord's Supper

- **Lutheran:** Christ is Present in the Lord's Supper- *Consubstantiation*
- **Catholic:** The bread and wine are literally transformed into the body and blood of Jesus (in substance, not form)- *Transubstantiation*
- **Baptist:** a time to remember Christ for what he has done for us- *Memorial View*



Salvation

Knowing Jesus and knowing that you are now freed from your sin and have a place in heaven

- **Protestant View:** Salvation by Faith Alone
 - Your belief in Jesus saves you
 - You cannot earn your place in heaven
- **Catholic View:** Your faith and good works earn you a place in heaven
- **Orthodox View:** Theosis (Oneness with God)
 - You will be fully sanctified by the end of your life by the power of the Holy Spirit



Other Differences

Mariology- Significance of Mary- Catholic belief that Mary remained a virgin her whole life- she is a model for obedience and faith in the church;
Immaculate Conception of Mary

The Bible: Protestants believe the bible is the ultimate authority while Catholic believe in magisterium- Popes, Bishops, and Priests have the authority to interpret scripture



Other Doctrinal Differences

Books of the Bible:

- Protestants- 66 Books (Old and New)
- Catholic- 66 + 7 (Apocrypha)
- Orthodox- 66 + 7 + 5 additions to the Catholic additions

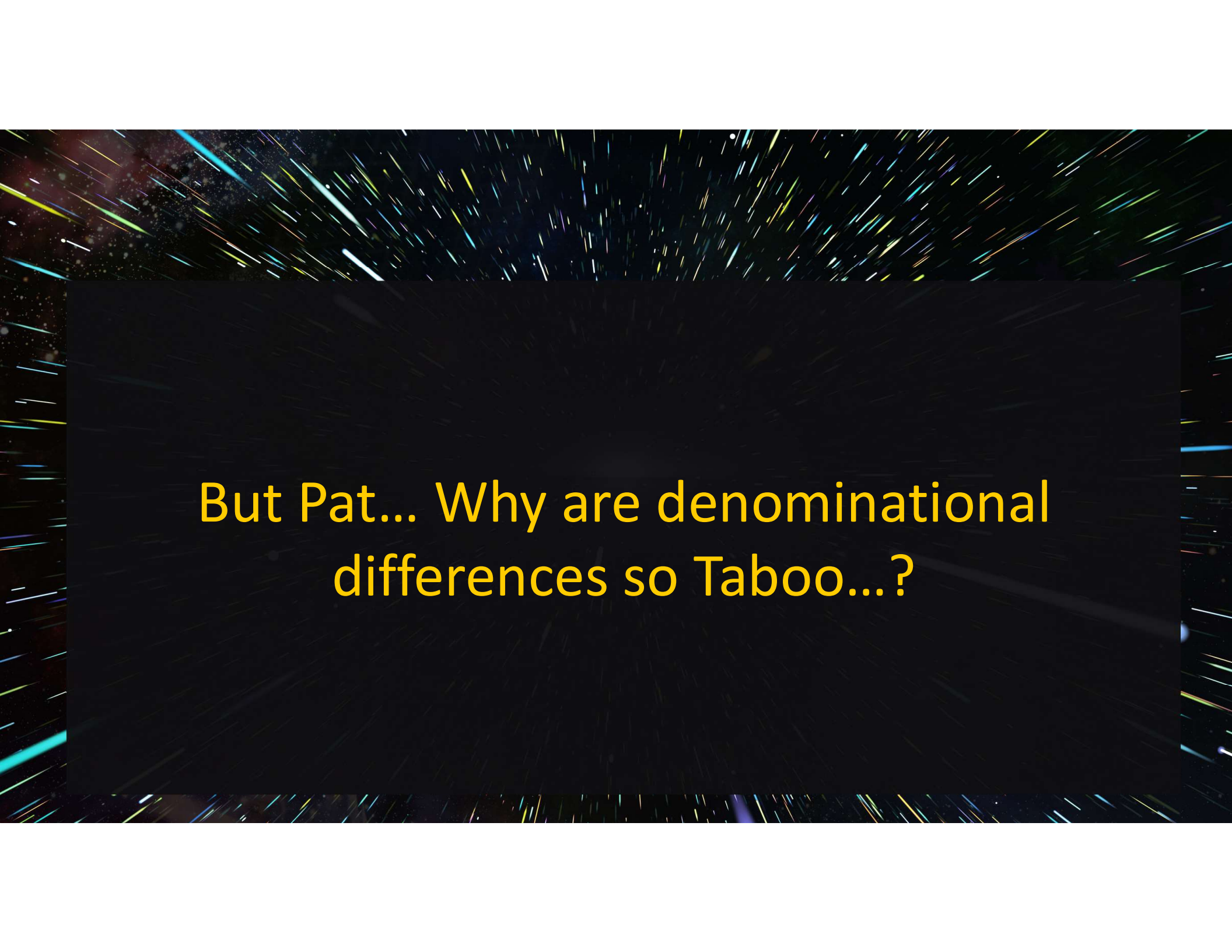
Baptism is a requirement of Salvation-

- Lutheran Tradition

Spiritual gifts sign of Salvation

- Pentecostal Tradition





But Pat... Why are denominational
differences so Taboo...?



So What?

- Theological Triage- Gavin Ortlund

Theological Triage Tiers

- First Rank Doctrines (Tier 1)
 - Beliefs needed to defend the gospel and proclaim it to others (Virgin Birth of Christ)
- Second Rank Doctrines (Tier 2)
 - Non-essential to the gospel
 - Beliefs that make a noticeable difference in how we understand and articulate the gospel (Baptism)



Theological Triage Tiers

- Tertiary Doctrines (Tier 3)
 - Beliefs important to theology, but not enough to divide Christians / ministries (Creation Days or The Lord's Supper)
- Fourth Rank Doctrines (Tier 4)
 - Personal convictions
 - Beliefs unimportant to our gospel witness or ministry collaborations



So What?

- Theological Triage- Gavin Ortlund
 - Choose the “right hills to die on”

So What?

- Theological Triage- Gavin Ortlund
 - Choose the right hills to die on
- Stop pointing the finger at other denominations as “less than” or “wrong”
 - **Pray** God would provide His truth to you and them

Mark 9: 38-40

³⁸ “Teacher,” said John, “we saw someone driving out demons in your name and we told him to stop, because he was not one of us.”

³⁹ “Do not stop him,” Jesus said. “For no one who does a miracle in my name can in the next moment say anything bad about me, ⁴⁰ for whoever is not against us is for us.

So What?

- Theological Triage- Gavin Ortlund
 - Choose the right hills to die on
- Stop pointing the finger at other denominations as “less than” or “wrong”
 - Pray God would provide His truth to you and them
- Be Humble and choose to love others

John 13: 34-35

³⁴ “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

So What?

- Theological Triage- Gavin Ortlund
 - Choose the right hills to die on
- Stop pointing the finger at other denominations as “less than” or “wrong”
 - Pray God would His truth to you and them
- Be Humble and choose to love others
- Be a “Die Hard” for Jesus, not your denomination

Gavin Ortlund's Prayer

Lord, where we have sinned either by failing to love the truth or by failing to love our brothers and sisters in our disagreements about the truth, forgive us and help us. For those of us who tend to fight too much over theology, help us to remember that you also died for unity of the church, your precious bride. Give us softer hearts. For those of us who tend to fight too little over theology, help us feel our need for courage and resilience. Give us stronger backbones. Help us to be people who tremble at your word and therefore ultimately fear no one but you. Lead us toward the healthy, happy balance of adhering to all your teaching while embracing all your people. Amen.



TIME OF GIVING

Online giving is also available on our church website,
www.westmiddlebury.org, and on our Tithely app.

Offering boxes are
available at both entrances.

2 Corinthians 9:7

