

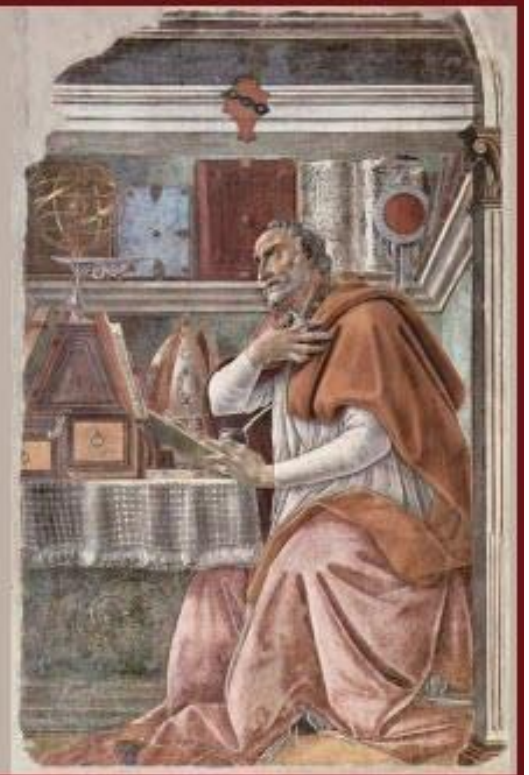
Non- Essentials

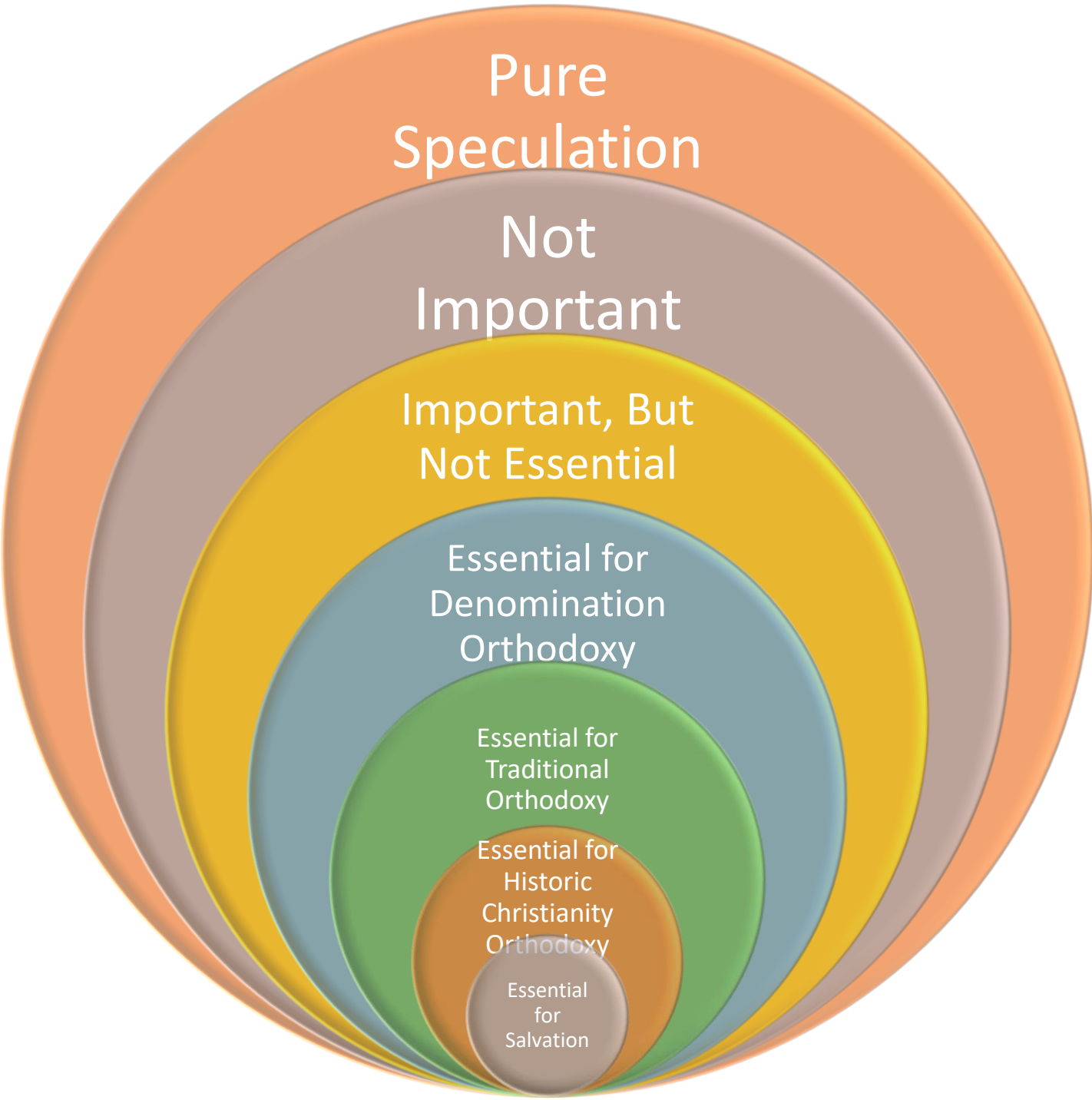
Wilbur Reid

*In essentials,
unity.*

*In non-essentials,
liberty.*

*In all things,
love.*





Pure Speculation

- Did Adam have a belly-button?
- Belief in the eternal destiny of pets?
- What was God doing “before” creation?
- Will there be meat to eat in heaven?
- How long was it before Adam and Eve fell?

Not Important

- The date of Christ's birth (Christmas)
- What kind of music to play at church
- Whether to use real wine or grape juice at communion
- Whether to hold Saturday night services
- Whether or not John the Baptist was an Essene

Important, but not Essential

- Beliefs about particulars in the creation debate
- Beliefs about the authorship of 2 Peter
- Belief about particular end-time schemes
 - i.e. premillennial, amillennial, post-millennial
- Which translation of the Bible to use
- Which Gospel was written first
- Is it OK for a Christian to drink alcohol

Essential for Denominational Orthodoxy

- Baptism

- Credo-baptism, i.e., Baptism is only for believers
 - Baptists, Christian Church
- Infant baptism
 - Presbyterians, Methodists, Anglicans

- Salvation

- Unconditional election – predestination
 - Reformed and Presbyterians
- Arminian theology – free will
 - Methodists, Nazarenes, Christian Church

- Spiritual Gifts

- Belief in the continuation of the Charismatic gifts
 - Pentecostals, Church of God

Essential for Traditional Orthodoxy

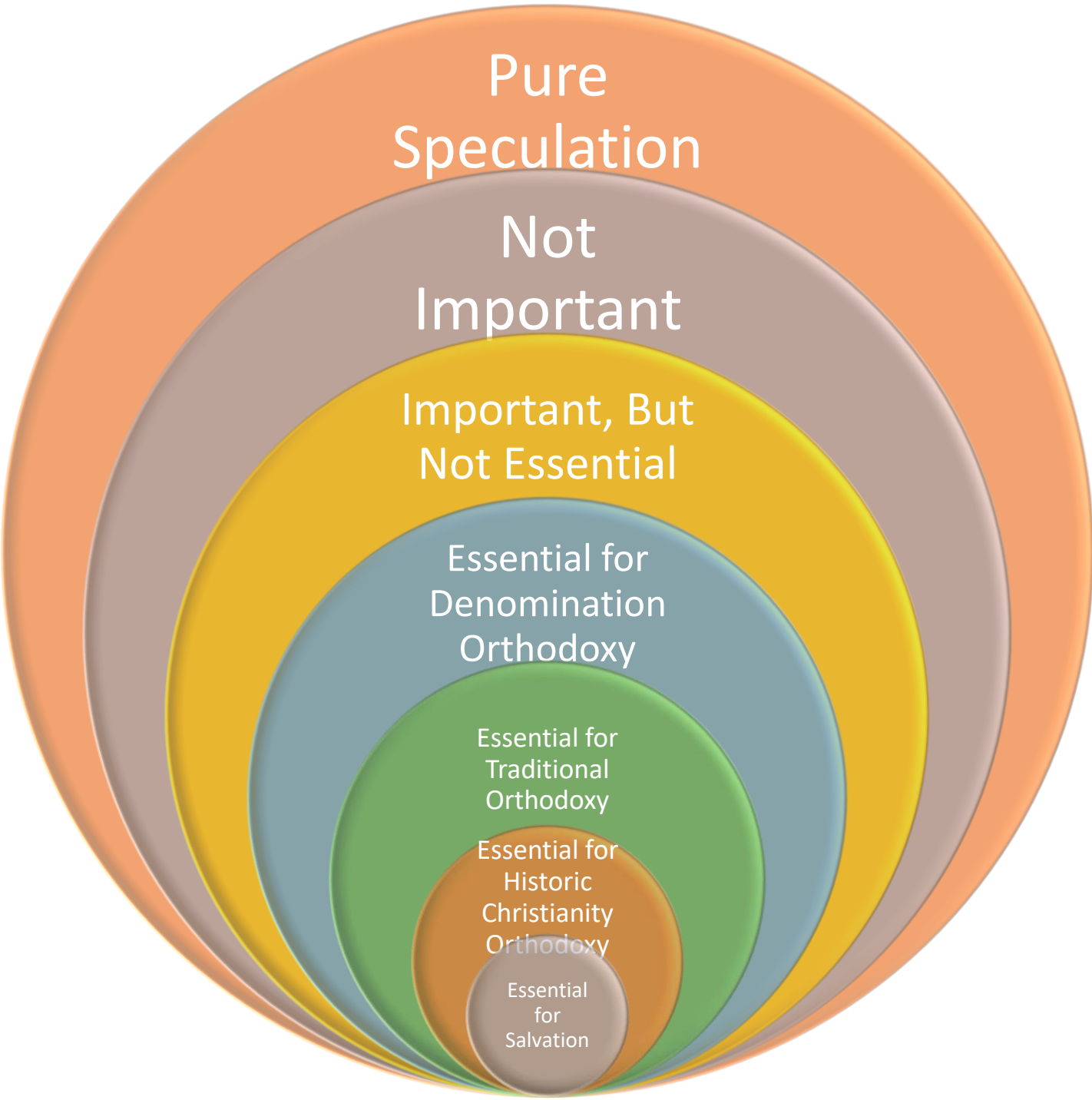
- Protestant
 - Belief in the necessity for a *personal* relationship with Jesus Christ
 - Belief that justification is through faith *alone* on the basis of Christ *alone*
 - Belief that Scripture alone has *ultimate and final* authority on all matters of faith and practice
 - The canon of Scripture made up of 66 books
- Roman Catholic
 - Belief in transubstantiation (the bread and wine turn into the actual body and blood of Christ)
 - Belief that justification is through faith *and* works
 - Belief that both Scripture and unwritten tradition have ultimate authority as they are interpreted by the Magisterium
 - Belief that the Pope is the infallible vicar of Christ
 - Belief that the canon includes the Deuterocanonical books
- Eastern Orthodox
 - Belief in the infallibility of the first seven ecumenical councils (325-787 AD)
 - Belief that the liturgy of the Church is part of the Gospel
 - Rejection of substitutionary atonement and the imputation of Adam's sin
 - Salvation by grace through faith as God works these out through our unification with Him (*theosis*)

Essential for Historic Christian Orthodoxy

- The doctrine of the Trinity as expressed at Nicea
- The doctrine of the Hypostatic Union
 - Christ is fully man and fully God, as expressed at Chalcedon
- The belief in the *future* second coming of Christ
- A belief in the inspiration and authority of Scripture
- A belief in God's transcendence
 - his metaphysical distinction from the universe
- A belief in God's immanence
 - his present activity in the world and our lives
- A belief in God's sovereignty
 - while there are different ways to define sovereignty, this basically purports that God is in control
- Belief that Christ is the only way to a right relationship with God
- Belief in eternal punishment of the unredeemed

Essential for Salvation

- Belief in God
 - there is no such thing as an atheistic Christian
- Belief in Christ's deity and humanity
 - 1 John 4:2-3; Rom. 10:9
- Belief that you are a sinner in need of God's mercy
 - 1 John 1:10
- Belief that Christ died on the cross and rose bodily from the grave for our sins
 - 1 Cor 15:3-4
- Belief that faith in Christ is necessary
 - John 3:16
- Believe, repent, confess, be baptized, live a Christian life





Non-Essentials
*In Essentials, Unity; In Non-Essentials,
Liberty; In all Things, Love*

- Culture
 - Alcohol
 - Politics
 - Science / Creation
- In the church
 - What to wear
 - Worship styles
 - Miraculous Spiritual Gifts
 - Millennialism
 - Women's roles
 - Personal preferences

Drinking Alcohol

- John 2:1-11 (water to wine); I Timothy 5:23 (wine for stomach)
- Don't get drunk:

"But now I am writing you that ***you must not associate with*** anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, ***a drunkard*** or a swindler. ***With such a man do not even eat.***" (1 Corinthians 5:11)

"Do you not know that ***the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God***? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy ***nor drunkards*** nor slanderers nor swindlers ***will inherit the kingdom of God.***" (1 Corinthians 6:9-10)

"***The acts of the sinful nature are obvious***: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; ***drunkenness***, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that ***those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.***" (Galatians 5:19-21)

"For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do--living in debauchery, lust, ***drunkenness***, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry. They think it strange that you do not plunge with them into the same flood of dissipation, and they heap abuse on you. ***But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.***" (1 Peter 4:3-5)

Abstain

- Fermented vs grape juice
- Stages of drunkenness
- Witness to others
- Parallel to meat offered to idols
 - Romans 14:1-6, 15-21; I Corinthians 8:1-13
 - ""Everything is **permissible** for me"-- **but not everything is beneficial**. "Everything is permissible for me"--but I will not be mastered by anything." (1 Corinthians 6:12)
 - ""Everything is **permissible**"-- **but not everything is beneficial**. "Everything is permissible"--but not everything is constructive." (1 Corinthians 10:23)



Politics



- Taxes
- Same sex marriages
- Capital Punishment
- Abortion
- War
- Religion in public schools
- Slavery



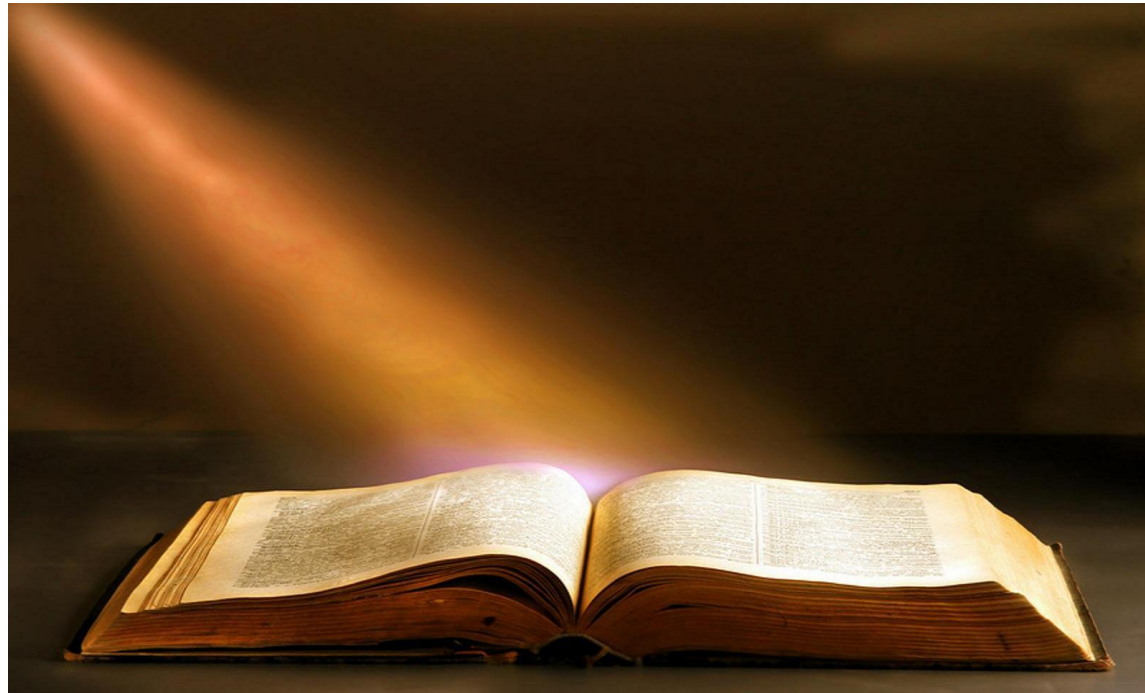
Culture

- Holy Kiss
- Wash Feet
- Women's Roles
- Sexuality
- Science / Creation

QUESTIONS?

***Next week:
Plan of Salvation***

*When the Bible speaks, we speak.
When the Bible is silent, we are
silent.*



Simplifying Core Essentials

- Essentials to get to heaven
- Essentials in what we teach and practice at Woodlawn Christian Church

