

Hello everyone, time for another post. From time to time I like to share things on here that may be interesting, maybe funny, maybe educational, maybe none of the above, but it is simply something I want to write about. I recently had a charge on my debit card from Saks Fifth Avenue in New York. So I went to the bank to straighten this out, because, obviously, I don't shop at Saks Fifth Avenue in New York. When I showed the bank teller the charge on my account, all I had to say was say "looking at me do I look like I shop at Saks Fifth Avenue?" She laughed and agreed. It only took her one look to figure out that I'm a simple kind of guy, I don't normally wear clothes that would have come from Saks Fifth Avenue, and I probably didn't approve those charges. So, I like to make things simple, probably because that's the only way I can figure them out myself. I've heard some questions lately about theology and doctrine. I wanted to take a moment and clarify the difference in the two. Theology is what we believe. Doctrine is how we teach what we believe. This distinction is a major difference in a lot of Christian denominations. I want to give a simple example: Most of us would agree that it is a good idea to change the oil in our cars. In the same way most Christian denominations believe the same foundational things. The doctrine, or how we teach those things, is often the difference. Like we all agree on changing the oil in our cars, there are differences in how we teach someone else that principal. I believe in using full synthetic oil, and changing it every 6000 miles. I know other people that use conventional oil and change it every 3000 miles. There are others still who believe in using synthetic blend and change it whenever they get around to it. The same holds true for our doctrine. Even though we believe a lot of the same basic things, some of us teach those things differently. As Christians, we believe in the baptism of believers. But, there are Baptists who believe the baptism should only be done by submersion. I know Methodists who believe that sprinkling is the only correct way to baptize. I'm not arguing for one or the other, I actually see some merit in both ways. The thing is, they both believe in baptism, theologically. The difference is in their doctrine. I hope this helps to clear up any confusion on the two terms.

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