

**Does it matter?****(a lesson in effective communication)**

We must understand how what we send will be received or we will be self deceived and the source of discord.

**Example 1****Those with different ideas**

1 Thessalonians 2:7 We were gentle among you

2 Timothy 2:24 ...with humility correcting those in opposition

Ridicule is an ineffective teaching strategy.

Be low stress.

**Example 1****Those with different ideas**

Avoid "religion" words because:

- Definitions are poorly understood
- They evoke emotional responses
- Those who insist on certain wording have other problems

Promote:

- Finding all the passages
- Finding all the promises
- Word studies

**Example 2:****Does sin matter?**

What is the context of "matter"? If one is not clearly given, the hearer will fill the void with personal experience.

What contexts might the hearer supply?

**Example 2:  
Does sin matter?**

How might an answer be framed to clarify the poor question?

"It's one of those good news – bad news things. The good news is that God will not send you to hell for your poor choices. The bad news is that the decision will be made by comparison of your faith to God's version of faith."

**Example 1:  
Does sin matter?**

Romans 4:12 ..who also walk in the steps of the faith of Abraham...

Let's look up all the passages that use the word, faith, and jot down all the characteristics of what God calls faith. Then we can see how faith defeats sin, but that sin cannot be defeated directly.

**Example 2:  
Does sin matter?**

How might an answer be framed to show that forsaking sin is expected of Christians while still emphasizing faith?

“Christians avoid sin because it (1) makes God sad, (2) ruins our credibility, (3) is inappropriate, and (4) messes up God’s Temple.”

**Example 3:  
Does understanding matter?**

What contexts might the hearer supply?

**Example 3:  
Does understanding matter?**

How might an answer be framed to clarify the poor question?

“Understanding is promised to the faithful. Failing to seek understanding is a rejection of faith.”

**Example 3:  
Does understanding matter?**

Let’s look up all the passages that use the word, understanding, and jot down all the promises God makes about our understanding.

Examples: 1 Corinthians 2:9 – 12, Ephesians 1:17 – 19, 2 Corinthians 3:18, Ephesians 3:17, 2 Peter 1:5

**Example 4:  
Does where you go to church matter?**

What are some of the many possible answers?

From what inaccurate backgrounds do they arise?

How do you spark an interest in research?

**Example 4:  
Does where you go to church matter?**

Let’s look up all the “one another” passages, since you cannot “one another” by yourself.

Examples: Hebrews 3:13, 10:23 – 27, 1 Corinthians 11:17 – 34, 14:26, Colossians 3:15, Romans 14:19, 1 Thessalonians 4:17 – 18, 5:11.

**Example 4:  
Does where you go to church matter?**

God deals with individuals, not groups. He neither accepts groups nor condemns groups.

Most think that going to a certain building makes you acceptable. That's backwards. Going to the best possible place does not earn any points toward heaven.

**Example 4:  
Does where you go to church matter?**

Attending where teaching is poor lowers the probability of learning godly faith.

Attending where teaching is excellent still requires you to listen, learn, and grow faith.

So, where you attend may help or may hinder your development. But it is up to you.

**Example 4:  
Does where you go to church matter?**

The reasons for picking a place are:

- Where may I be useful to others?
- Where may I connect with fellow spirits?
- Where may I grow my faith?

**Example 5:  
Does what you do at church matter?**

Matter for what?

The reasons people give for meeting dictate how they view the activities.

Nowhere does the New Testament connect a gathering of Christians and worship.

**Example 5:  
Does what you do at church matter?**

Commands? 1 John 3:22 – 23

Examples? “Example” is used 16 times in the New Testament. Several are ignored today. Most have to do with imitating those of good character. Never are the practices of the early church held up as examples.

**Example 5:  
Does what you do at church matter?**

Traditions? Romans 14.

Weak logic to invoke God's blessing on what I want to do?

The cure? Read the whole New Testament. Build faith.