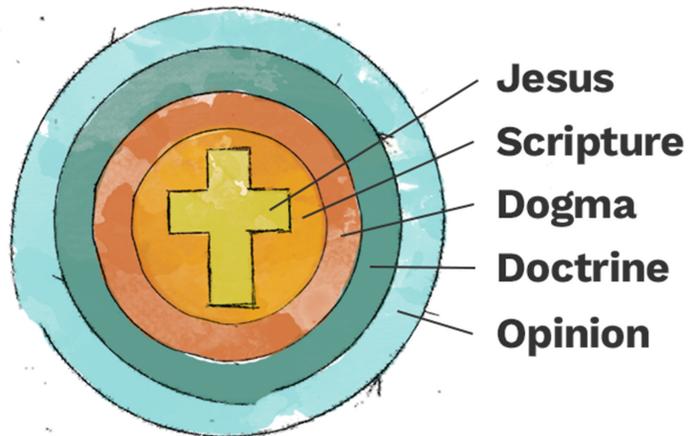




CONCENTRIC CIRCLES



Not all beliefs are created equal! So, at Woodland, we find it helpful to construct a belief hierarchy of concentric circles with those beliefs that are near the center holding more weight. When we have these concentric rings of understanding, we can hold in check our desire to be right all the time and remember that Jesus is greater than all our circles.

Jesus

At the bullseye is the person of Jesus Christ, the definitive revelation of the Triune God. Jesus reveals God's other-oriented, self-sacrificial agape-love. He is our only source of life and our ultimate criterion to think about, and relate to, God, ourselves and others.

Scripture

Any beliefs that a Christian community have in common must be grounded in Scripture.

Dogma

Dogma is the foundational beliefs of orthodox Christianity, which the majority of Christians have agreed upon throughout history. These pillars of the faith are expressed in early church creeds, like the Apostle's Creed.

Doctrine

Doctrines are the ways we live out our understanding of dogma. Doctrines, like the manner of baptism or predestination vs. free will, distinguish different Christian denominations and churches.

Opinion

Opinion level matters, such as theories about the end-times, have little clear and uncontroversial teaching around them in Scripture, and this lack of clarity leads to differences of opinion even within the same denomination or church.