

Every true Christian Church agrees on the most important issue discussed in the Bible: how a person can receive eternal life. Next to this central theme of Scripture, all minor differences are insignificant. Eternal salvation can only be gained by repentance from sin and acceptance of Jesus Christ as your personal Savior. No genuine Christian interprets these essential doctrines differently. I encourage you to study the Bible for yourself, and allow Jesus to be the Lord and Savior of your life.

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# DOES EVERYONE INTERPRET THE BIBLE DIFFERENTLY?

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**T**here is no question that each individual who reads the Bible will, on occasion, find unique ways of looking at what it teaches. The Bible was written over a 1,500 year period, by over 40 authors, and is the most published book in the history of the world. It still speaks clearly to every age, every society, and every individual.

In light of its widespread use, I question whether the confusion over each person's interpretation of the Bible is as pronounced a problem as some would claim it to be. **Often times, those who believe everyone interprets the Bible differently are merely repeating an expression they have heard others say**, though they have had little or no firsthand experience in this area. **Their response is usually due to the fact that they do not want to discuss the Bible, rather than because they have carefully researched its contents.**

**At other times, people who have attended Bible-believing churches have been told that some of their doctrines differ from those of other churches.** But what doctrines were they referring to, and how significant are they in light of the overall message of the Bible? In order to answer these questions, we must first consider which churches base their doctrinal beliefs solely upon the Bible.

Churches that claim to be Christian can be divided into two categories: Those that would be considered genuine Christian churches, and those that would be called cults. The most respected groups that would fall into the first category are the Baptists, Lutherans, Methodists, Presbyterians, Episcopalians, Pentecostal, and Charismatic churches.

All of these genuine Christian groups agree on every foundational Christian doctrine concerning God, man, sin, Jesus Christ, judgment, repentance, salvation, Heaven, and Hell. Actually, **all groups that base their teachings solely upon the Bible agree on the fundamental Christian doctrines mentioned above.** It is when other books are placed on an equal or superior level with the Bible that significantly different doctrines are taught. Also, the doctrinal areas that the genuine Christian churches disagree on do not pertain to the foundational doctrines taught in the Bible.

So, in answer to the original question, "Does everyone interpret the Bible differently?", the answer must be a resounding "No." Concerning the major doctrines the Bible addresses every reputable translation of the Bible (and there are a few dozen) teaches identical truths.