Christian Doctrinal Summary

Essential Doctrine (Christian Core Beliefs)

- Jesus Christ - the cornerstone rejected by the builders (Matthew 21:42)
- The Trinity - three distinct persons, one God (Matthew 28:19; Matthew 3:16-17; John 15:26)
- The deity and humanity of Jesus Christ - fully God, fully man (Colossians 2:9)
- The incarnation (John 1:14)
- The virgin birth (Luke 1:26-35)
- Substitutionary atonement (1 Corinthians 15:1-4; Romans 5:11)
- The resurrection of Jesus (1 Corinthians 15:1-8; Luke 24:1-53)
- Salvation by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone (Ephesians 2:8-9; 1 Timothy 2:5)
- The necessity of repentance and faith (Luke 13:3-6; Acts 3:19; Matthew 17:20; Matthew 21:21)
- Scripture - infallible, inerrant, inspired, sufficient (2 Timothy 3:16)

Non-Essential Doctrines

- Mode of baptism - immersion vs. sprinkling
- Believer's baptism vs. paedo-baptism
- Church policy / governance
- Eschatology - study of last things or end times

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- Worship style
- Musical preference
- Covenantalism vs. Dispensationalism:
  Covenantalism: All covenants fulfilled in Christ, culminating in the New Covenant.
  Dispensationalism: Some covenants (esp. Israel's restoration) await future fulfillment in a coming kingdom.
- Hermeneutics - methods of interpretation

You can be wrong here, but you're not going to hell because of it.

Annihilationism & Conditionalism

- Conditionalism: Immortality is a gift from God, only the redeemed inherit eternal life.

- Annihilationism: A corollary of conditionalism - the wicked are destroyed rather than eternally tormented.

WARNING: If someone's annihilationist view undermines a cardinal doctrine (e.g., the nature of Christ, the resurrection, salvation), then it could cross into heresy.

Heresy warning: 2 Peter 2:1