

Finding the Right Hills to Die on: The Case for Theological Triage By Gavin Ortlund **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** How are Christians to navigate these differences? And if we are to divide.

## **Finding the right hills to die on pdf**

In what way should we divide? Ortlund develops a four tiered system for navigating the importance of disagreements between Christians in their doctrinal convictions. **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** Issues unimportant to gospel witness and ministry collaboration Ortlund has created a very nuanced approach.

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But rather make their stand for unity - often in the face of opposition from both sides. **Finding the right hill to die on ortlund** It provides a solid critique of doctrinal sectarianism (arguing and dividing over every issue) and doctrinal minimalism (neglecting theology and discernment in the interest of keeping the peace). **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** With an historian's insight a theologian's precision and a pastor's wisdom Gavin Ortlund has given the church an invaluable handbook for navigating our ongoing doctrinal challenges and for healing our ongoing doctrinal divisions. **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** I nearly docked him a star for being ever-so-slightly in a different place than I am on creationism (though I still found his thoughts very helpful) but that didn't seem right! I do simply feel that the effects of old-earth views on theology are not commonly reported by proponents but what can I expect? YEC weaknesses aren't reported by YEC proponents. **Finding the right hill to die on ortlund** The TGC Confessional Statement affirms as parallel examples double imputation a propitiating model of the atonement divine election and biblical inerrancy—doctrines that are disputed at times by other Christians within the boundaries of orthodoxy. **Finding the right hill to die on ortlund** But is the unity of the body of Christ one of those doctrines we jealously guard? Another: One note of caution: some of the most divisive issues among Christians concern not theological matters per se but cultural wisdom and political issues. **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** For example should Christians send their children to public schools or private schools or do home schooling? Under what circumstances if any may Christians drink alcohol? When and how (if at all) should reference to current political and cultural events be made in a church service? These are all important questions but in this book I am focusing more on specifically theological matters. **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** But how do we know which ones? When should doctrine divide and when should unity prevail? Pastor Gavin Ortlund makes the case that while all doctrines matter some are more essential than others. **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** Ortlund also helpfully emphasizes that there are many Christians who hold errant views in this category who are just ignorant of the details - or just haven't studied these issues yet. **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** Issues that fall in this category for Ortlund are baptism the lords supper Calvinism/Arminianism strong cessationism/strong continuationism and some nuances in justification (double vs single imputation) for example. **Finding the right hill to die on ortlund** In our current climate with so many churches splitting or dividing over politics I would have appreciated more conversation on politics and how Ortlund would fit them into this system. **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** [Speaking of politics I couldn't help thinking that a system like this would be a step forward for any system of beliefs - especially the polarized state of American politics right now. **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** This should be read by any Christian who ever wonders which issues they need to take a stand for and which ones to not let divide I wouldn't say it ruins the book I just felt it made it less objective. **Finding the right hill to die on ortlund** If I could make a pamphlet on just the first 2 chapters and the conclusion which is crucial because the primary call of the book is for the reader to adopt an attitude of humility. **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** I didn't agree with Ortlund on everything he said but the beauty is that I don't have to!

When I did disagree with Ortlund the disagreement had a tinge of love and constructivity which testifies to how impactful the book was even as I read it! If you do happen to read this book please tell me your thoughts:

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This book helps new and seasoned church leaders alike wisely labor both to uphold doctrine and to preserve unity. **Finding the right hill to die on ortlund** Finding the Right Hills to Die on: The Case for Theological Triage Required reading for all serious Christians who care about learning and communicating theologically. **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** Gavin Ortlund This book will be a paradigm changer for many. **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** Ortlund is navigating the question of what issues are worth drawing dividing lines between Christian groups: **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** One of Jesus' prayers before going to the cross - and one of the longest prayers in Scripture - (the high priestly prayer) was for the unity of his followers: **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** However - Christians have many different views on many things and doctrines. **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** All four also have differing ways Christians should divide as well, **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** Doctrines which are essential for the health of the church and practice<sup>3</sup>. **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** Important doctrines theologically - but not enough to justify separation between Christian groups<sup>4</sup>, **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** It also had me checking my own heart on some particular doctrinal nuances I hold - that I'm particularly proud of - in a not good way. **Finding the right hill to die on ortlund** If you only read those chapters you will learn a lot in how you think and be convicted in some way: **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** Does the reader need to know his story and how he came to theological positions to learn how to navigate the many differences in positions in biblical Christianity? No: **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** He states that his positions aren't going to distort his teaching throughout the book but when you know what someone believes you pick up on it throughout. **Finding the right hill to die on ortlund** Having said that.

### **Finding the right hills to die on pdf**

I would easily hand that out as a starting point for believers in assessing where they stand on Essential and Non-essential doctrines, **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** Gavin Ortlund This is the best book I've read on how to navigate doctrinal differences: **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** Gavin Ortlund Remarkable read on such an important topic! Thx for the find @EanSnell!! This book is essentially about how Christians ought to disagree on theology, **Finding the right hill to die on ortlund** It then provides an explanation of several tiers of doctrines that each should be handled in a different way, **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** This book is written with such humility.

### **Finding the right hills to die on pdf**

Was able to read a pre-release copy of this in view of providing an endorsement which I was glad to do: **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** Here's my blurb: To put it simply: this is an important book: **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** Gavin Ortlund The Ortlund boys keep delivering this year! I loved this book. **Finding the right hill to die on ortlund** Gavin Ortlund Excelente libro debería ser una lectura obligatoria antes de hablar de teología en Internet, **Finding the right hill to die on ortlund** Ortlund nos ayuda a identificar cuáles son las doctrinas por las que vale la pena luchar y cuáles son las doctrinas en las que podemos tener desacuerdos en paz, **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** Ortlund nos exhorta a la humildad recordándonos que no somos llamados ni al minimalismo doctrinal ni al sectarismo doctrinal, **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** One thing I found very interesting and insightful was the way that Ortlund acknowledged that second-order issues can have ties to first-order ones, **Finding the right hill to die on ortlund** The Gospel

Coalition sometimes faces criticism for affirming complementarianism in its foundation documents but not taking a position on say baptism, **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** Isn't it inconsistent to seek to be "gospel-centered" and yet have a position on issues that separate you from others who also love the gospel? Not necessarily, **Finding the right hill to die on ortlund** These are decisions of theological triage grounded in the fact that as we saw in chapter 2 doctrines can be important to the gospel though not essential to it, **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** Therefore seeking to make the gospel central is not necessarily at odds with affirming the importance of various secondary issues: **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** Consider this analogy: Suppose you are starting an organization that purposes to re-center American legal practice back on the Constitution as the supreme law of the nation: **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** Does this entail that your organization must be neutral on all issues related to constitutional law or subsequent American legal history? Of course not: **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** Any effort to refocus on the center will inevitably engage at least some of the periphery, **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** Similarly it is false to think that just because an issue is distinct from the gospel it has no bearing on the gospel. **Finding the right hill to die on ortlund** This is at the heart of the recognition of second-rank doctrines as a category. **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** Another great quote: Some Christians are eager to defend sound doctrine, **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** Everybody is some kind of fundamentalist: everybody separates has lines of demarcation around a set of acceptable views lines that keep out unacceptable ones, **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** Everybody I think stratifies doctrine from the irascible discernment blogger who seems to treat every doctrine as of first importance to the liberal who makes it all negotiable. **Finding the right hill to die on ortlund** The concept of theological triage is very important precisely because I got that phrase of first importance from the Bible, **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** Also Jesus said that there are weightier matters of the law: **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** I know of no better model than the one provided by Ortlund: **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** Gavin Ortlund Dare I say required reading for all first year seminarians? Gavin Ortlund In theology just as in battle some hills are worth dying on: **Finding the right hill to die on ortlund** He considers how and what to prioritize in doctrine and ministry encouraging humility and grace along the way. **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** Using four basic categories of doctrine in order of importance and has spent much time thinking on and developing his system: **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** Not only do these four tiers contain different theological beliefs but Ortlund also details 4 ways in which believers are to 'divide' over these issues. **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** Tier one constitutes a division between Christian believers and unbelievers: **Finding the right hill to die on ortlund** It includes issues such as the Trinity the deity of Christ the bodily resurrection of Christ and justification in Christ's death through faith: **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** Tier one is also the most drastic of all the dividing lines. **Finding the right hill to die on ortlund** These issues should be stood and fought for - albeit in a loving humble and Christ honoring way, **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** He also highlighted the difference in the way one approaches a doctrinal difference as a large indicator as well - humbly or in an arrogant and prideful way: **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** Tier two is a tier for extremely important issues but not issues that should divide between whether we consider someone a Christian or not, **Finding the right hill to die on ortlund** However these issues are the ones that affect much of a persons Christian life, **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** 1st tier doctrines which are essential to the gospel can also be affected by these 2nd tier doctrinal beliefs: **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** These issues he argues are usually grounds for switching churches or organizations over, **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** However in saying that a difference in these views can lead to dividing churches he emphasized that it should not lead to a relational divide between Christians, **Finding the right hill to die on ortlund** Our desire to uphold the love and unity of the church should match our desire for truth: **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** As Ortlund puts it 'gospel doctrine and gospel culture should both be upheld equally, **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** 'Third Tier issues were issues which have some importance - but don't affect the more important

doctrines and don't affect life and practice of believers. **Finding the right hill to die on ortlund** Ortlund argues that though these are important issues Christians should not divide over them, **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** He places in this category the old vs young earth creation debate and some of the end times chronology controversies. **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** I personally would also place politics in this category - as something that while it is important it's not something which Christians need divide over. **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** The fourth tier issues are those that are unimportant for life and ministry in the church and are more simply preference issues, **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** In this category Ortlund places worship styles and other more outward stylistic preferences, **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** Granted my theology lines up with Ortlund extremely closely - but even so I'm amazed at the things Christians divide over: **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** Even entire denominations often divide over very minor theological preference points such as end times views creation day lengths or alcohol consumption stipulations: **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** This book was a breath of fresh air - and contains much wisdom in how Christians should approach theological differences: **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** However - the book is really one about theology not politics: **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** So I suppose it's fitting that it addresses only the former: **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** This would allow polarized groups to work together on the issues they agree on even when they have significant disagreements in other areas. **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** The meat of the book is concerned with the differentiating or triaging of biblical truths, **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** Also the end of the book pushes home the absolute need for humility and love, **Finding the right hill to die on ortlund** We should care deeply and apply liberally humility and love in maintaining unity in the church: **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** This is way up there on my list of books that Christians should read, **Finding the right hill to die on ortlund** Especially young adult Christians who are in a unique stage of theological development, **Finding the right hill to die on ortlund** Gavin Ortlund Gavin Ortlund (PhD Fuller Theological Seminary) is senior pastor at First Baptist Church of Ojai in Ojai California: **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** He was previously a research fellow for the Creation Project at the Carl F, **Finding the right hill to die on ortlund** Henry Center for Theological Understanding at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** He is the author of Finding the Right Hills to Die On Theological Retrieval for Evangelicals and Anselms Pursuit of Joy: **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** Gavin Ortlund (PhD Fuller Theological Seminary) is senior pastor at First Baptist Church of Ojai in Ojai California, **Finding the right hill to die on ortlund** He was previously a research fellow for the Creation Project at the Carl F, **Finding the right hills to die on pdf** Henry Center for Theological Understanding at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, **Finding the right hill to die on ortlund** He is the author of Finding the Right Hills to Die On Theological Retrieval for Evangelicals and Anselm's Pursuit of Joy. Most excellent. It is an absolutely excellent work. The unity of the church matters greatly to Jesus. His four tiered system is as follows:1. Doctrines which are essential to the Gospel2.5/5 Excellent! Gavin Ortlund 3.5 stars.Chapters 1 and 2 are the highlight of the book. Chapter 3 seems unnecessary. I couldn't recommend it highly enough. Every seminarian and church-leadership team should read it. Gavin Ortlund Gracious clear accessible. Extremely well done. Well and good. Some kind of thoughtful stratification is required.Highly recommended. Prayer or sacraments are often greatly affected. Preferences of alcohol consumption he also places here. Reading this it seemed right on target to me. I enjoyed this very much. His description of the 4 categories was helpful. Jesus cared deeply for the unity of the church. Paul taught extensively on the unity of the church. Great book to read even better book to talk about. H. H. {site\_link}

*Gavin Ortlund*

Foreword by D. A. Carson

**FINDING  
THE  
RIGHT HILLS  
TO  
DIE ON**

*The Case for Theological Triage*