

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

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What thoughts cross your mind about our individual and corporate responsibility with the Lord's Table and Baptism? (not merely what is the problem, but how should the definitions of these studied and strengthened actually promote healthy churches AND protect against nominalism and unholiness)

- If anyone can be baptized, takes away meaning/value
- These ordinances belong in the church
- What about being too critical
- Lowering the bar
- What is the object of faith?
- Authenticity vs. false assurance
- Sports -> that's not wrestling, B-ball
- When conversion super easy, ecclesiology is weak

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Baptism—what is it? Where does it fit in the life of the Christian? What are the implications of baptism? What are you assuming/thinking about when you see it take place?

- Entering the church
- Public identification with Jesus
- Symbolized death to new life
- Public declaration of inner “experience”
- Christ set example
- Symbol of cleansing
- Reference for future responsible living
- Decision to follow Christ
- Death to Sin, Alive to God
- Placed into Christ

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- Should think of implications of baptism everyday
- Commitment
- Response of regeneration which makes us willing & obedient
- Must count cost that comes with act of obedience
- Assumed we are saved before happens
- Assume understand something at what God means by this symbol of obedience
- Cut off from the world that would and tied to Christ
- Concerned because confusion of life and identity & purpose under God

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How have your thoughts changed about baptism?

- From next step to inner peace & better you, to joining God's army
- Brings ongoing hope instead of just obedience & act
- Thought saved before which was right but now see added dimension of accountability before & among people of God
- Lost in baptism definition, to not figuring all out, but desiring to publicly, volitionally, identify with people of God
- From sprinkling baby to immersion to something with more meaning than just the timing & mode
- From spectator to life of responsibility

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Scripture about baptism:

- Romans 6:3-6
- Gal 2:20
- Mark 16:16
- Matt 28:19-20
- John – produce fruit in keeping w/ repentance
- Isa. 43:1 –
- Acts 1:5

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Baptism is what marks out Christians and divides them from the world. It symbolizes our spiritual unity in Christ and brings visible unity to Christ's church, Therefore, if you want to publicly identify with Jesus, water baptism is the way." "The abiding principle is this: the church has the responsibility in baptism to testify to a person's faith. The church does not have the power to confer or complete salvation. However, it does have the delegated authority to baptize believers in Christ based on their visible faith . . ."

Waters That Unite: Five Truths About Water Baptism 3/14/16 David Schrock

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Lord's Supper—what is it? Where does it fit in the life of the Christian? What are the implications of baptism? What are you assuming/thinking about when you see it take place?

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How have your thoughts changed about the Lord's Supper?

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Scripture on the Lord's Supper:



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How is this view of Baptism and the Lord's Table different from where we normally focus? (where do you normally focus? Those around you? What do they attach to it that is different than what we normally attach to it? Where are they focusing?)

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Where do we tend to address these problems they mention if we don't lead with a look at these ordinances?

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“In baptism, you publicly commit to Christ and his people. Baptism is where faith goes public. It’s how a new believer shows up on the world and the church’s radar as a believer. In other words, baptism marks off a believer from the world. In baptism, the church says to the world, ‘This one belongs to Jesus!’ In the Lord’s Supper, we renew our commitment to Christ and his people. But, distinct from baptism, the Lord’s Supper is something we all do together. The Lord’s Supper marks off an entire group of Christians as one body, drawing a line between them and the world around them. And by drawing a line between the church and the world, baptism and the Lord’s Supper draw a line around the church. The ordinances make it possible to point to something and say ‘church’ rather than only pointing to many somethings and saying ‘Christians.’”

Bobby Jamieson How the Lord’s Supper Makes a Local Church 4/28/16

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How would even our small look at these ordinances, and then continuing to study, strengthen, and clarify these biblically actually promote healthy churches and protect against nominalism and unholiness?

Together

Together

Dependent

Together

Dependent

Intentional

Together process

Dependent

Intentional

Otherness

Slow

Messy Slow

Messy

Slow

Awkward

Messy

Slow

Awkward

Inconsistent

Think Large, Live Small

Large Back Burner

Think Large, Live Small

Large Back Burner

Think Large, Live Small

**Give way for
Backward**

Large Back Burner **Think Large, Live Small**

Servants

**Give way for
Backward, Back**

Large Back Burner **Think Large, Live Small**

Servants Sacrifice
**Give way for
Backward, Back**

Dependence

Humility

Dependence

Humility

Dependence

Steadfast Plodding



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A love for God and a love for others will lead to 5 distinct things that go together. **Discipling, Evangelism, Raising up leaders, Church Planting, Missions.** What is the root of these five things (the “germ” he talks about)? What do we need to do to foster this root in our lives individually and as a church?

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A love for God and a love for others will lead to 5 distinct things that go together. **Discipling, Evangelism, Raising up leaders, Church Planting, Missions** Why do these five go together? For example, why will there be a culture of raising up elders and leaders if men, women, boys, girls follow Jesus and teach others to follow Jesus?

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Underlying Assumptions/Goals in Adult SS for church as whole:

- 1. We must shift our focus from personal maturity and growth to building healthy churches.**
- 2. We must focus on the roots, not merely the fruit.**

“SKELETON AND FLESH OF THE CHURCH” APPLIED PT. 9

CBC, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2021

IF we do NOTHING else together, the Collective People of God must:

- I. Worship God Together.** Romans 15:5-6
- II. Grow Individually and Corporately with a Growth that Comes from God.** Eph. 4:15-16
- III. Protect/Defend the Name of God—His character and Eternal Purposes.** II Tim. 1:13-14
- IV. Own the People in the Particular Expression of the Body of Christ where God has Placed you.** I Cor. 12:18, Eph. 4:16
- V. Spread the Glory of God** Hab. 2:14, I Pet. 2:9

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We have looked at public worship services, relationships, growth, culture, now finally, What would need to be lifted up/allowed if want to build healthy churches with strong roots in **faithful service**?

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What IS service? What do we usually think of as service in the church?

- Practical necessities to worship
- Ministries (roles)
- Serve- should be other than you – willing to do whatever
- In-church, outside
- Talents – given by God – He decides where & how
- Giving, discipling, peacemaking, conversation, personal care – are all service
- Sacrifice - time, preferences, time displaying what has been given/honed
- Normally, we find gifts, plug people in
- Scripture calls us to stimulate others to good deeds
- Prayer
- Service demands patience

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What does Numbers 4:1ff, 16-19, 22ff, 29ff., Romans 12 do for guiding our service inside the church?

- Temporary, so repetitive, specific
- Assigned
- Leaders/ Servants
- Prescribed order w/ serious consequences
- Deviating from responsibilities brings consequences
- Part of whole – part is NOT whole
- Show up (be on duty, be where God is working)
- Called to do (reasonable service) NOT what you get out of it
- Rom. 12 – must be personally applied and held accountable
- Balance – all service tied to Rom. 12:1-2

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What does Numbers I Peter 4:7-11 do for guiding our service inside the church?

- V.7 - In the sphere of prayer (communion)
 - V.11 - God words/strength for Godly service
 - V. 1 - Arm yourself with the same purpose as Christ – suffer, you are in a dangerous situation, pay attention
 - V. 12 - Conflict & our response test our faithfulness in service
 - Need character to head this way – this character must come from yielding to the Spirit
- What causes Burnout:
 - Self-sufficiency
 - Earth bound goals
 - Overwhelmed by world
 - Identity with present circumstances rather than faithfully owning our part in God's Work
 - Disenchanted from wrong expectations (i.e. repetition of ordinary)

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Through the lens of these two goals, what were some of the changes hoped for by intentionally changing the goals during our *Future Grace* study leading to an 8 year study of that book? (longer studies over the years preceding)

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Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that **you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;**

Philippians 1:27

Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, ² **make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.**

Philippians 2:1–2