

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

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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?)

- Division between world & church – The world and The Church
- Evidence of regeneration precedes the ordinance
- Living understanding of the facts
- Counting the cost
- Accountability – what does this look like?
- Watch denominational snobbery
- Problem goes deeper than denominations
- Purpose of pastor/ shepherd is to grow/protect – be careful how divide [I Cor.3]

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

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

- We collectively give a voice to false assurance wrongfully—take away Christ's voice
- Multitude of dividing lines
- With our own fences that are supposed to protect God's lines – these become more important than God's lines
- How long do we put off the awkward conversations as people work/serve in the Church

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

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

- We wait until extreme abuse
- By giving the main voice to the people without the structure of church
- What we value, both about God AND about healthy Christianity or living
- Without asking “Why” in line with God’s means of discernment or counting the cost
- Wrong usage of “right accountability means”
- Apart from defining the character of God—therefore, looking to make church attractive apart from fellowship with God



With Geoff Chang

Geoff Chang serves as an assistant professor of church history and historical theology and is also the curator of the Spurgeon Library at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. You can follow him on Twitter at @geoffchang.



With Jonathan Leeman

Jonathan
(@JonathanLeeman)



On Spurgeon the Pastor, with Geoff Chang (Pastors Talk, Ep 235)



Episode 235: On Spurgeon the Pastor (with Geoff Chang)

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Thoughts on Spurgeon's practice and perhaps some of the implications we should note as we consider shifts in the norm for churches/Christians today?

- Used to praying
- Used to being examined
- Tight connection between regeneration and accountability and primary sphere of ministry (mission)
- Discernment valued - we call it judgment & that is shunned
- Credible profession of faith
- Baptism tied with membership
- Took steps toward fencing these ordinances w/ confidence
- Each part (membership, Lord's supper, baptism) needs to be carefully explained, understood, & "lived"
- Personal responsibility | Corporate responsibility
- Be careful about how we define these terms & give them out
- Dangerous with too much choice
- Careful teaching before & along the way

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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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Thoughts on “How the Lord’s Supper Makes a Local Church”?

- Puts focus on full commitment to another
- Covenant of grace
- Beacon calling us all to the center
- Source of life

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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?

- It would foster questions about essence of church & Christianity
- Helps breathe intended life into God-ordained means of identity and sanctification
- Anything significant requires clear boundaries and goals, must seek evidence of Christ's Headship in the church
- Simplifies so can focus on main things
- Freedom to live as Christ intended

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How do we change? How SHOULD we change?

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**

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

Servants

Sacrifice

**Give way for
Backward**

Dependence

Humility

Dependence

Humility

Dependence

Steadfast Plodding



ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

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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?**

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

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.** **How do these five things TOGETHER result from a love for God and a love for others?**

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

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—a natural overflow of love for God that will overflow individually and corporately? 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?

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

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