

ADULT SS
BACKGROUND &
PURPOSE

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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

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

“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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“There’s a gorgeous simplicity to God’s design for the church. What does it take to make a church? Gospel preaching that creates gospel people who participate in gospel ordinances. The church is the shape into which the gospel and its ordinances form God’s people. Baptism binds one to many, and the Lord’s Supper binds many into one.” Baptism and the Lord’s Supper inscribe the gospel into the very shape and structure of the church. What makes many one are the signs of the gospel. When Christians come together to form a church, they aren’t moving beyond the gospel but deeper into it.”

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?

- 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 identify and seek evidence of Christ's Headship in the church
- Simplifies so can focus on main things
- Freedom to live as Christ intended
- Fuel conversations that remind us about what our Christian life is about – that help maintain our relationship with God
- Involved in something much larger than us

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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? (CONTINUED)

- Iron sharpens iron – Heb. 3:13, Rom. 15:1-7 – forces us to own the faith and personalities of these believers God has placed with us
- Affects how we present the gospel
- Gives us a history
- Forces us to continue to hold up God's words and to seek to honor (it matters)

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What does hypocrisy and nominalism do to the strength of the gospel and the trustworthiness of God's Word? What effect would this have on those trying to be faithful to the gospel?

- Weakens it
- Holy Spirit for our purposes and producing ungodly actions instead of our yielding to spirit (we move, not God)
- Look inside ourselves for something different
- Makes it easier to distort
- Create unnecessary barricades around gospel
- Assurance to those who shouldn't
- Adds fear to saying it's wrong
- Changes the definition because lost the center
- Make us concerned about "hearing His voice"
- God allows things that test our faith
- Hypocrisy produces distrust – watch danger of trusting your own judgement as final

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What effect would this have on those trying to be faithful to the gospel?

- Should make you more dependent on God because you are affected by the disease you see around you – trust His sovereignty
- Should be slower to put foot down as final
- Makes it harder to clarify what is right and wrong
- Adds fear to saying it's wrong
- Faithful will look twisted/false

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

How do we change? How SHOULD we change? (What's involved with biblical change that often gets overlooked in our 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, Back**

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



ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

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Discipling, Evangelism, Raising up leaders, Church Planting, Missions. What is the root of these five things (the “germ” he talks about)? How does focusing on our churches being marked by loving God and loving others foster this germ?

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

What do we need to do to strengthen this germ/root of following Jesus in our lives individually and as a church?

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

Why will following Jesus individually/together naturally result in a culture of **disciplining, evangelism, raising up leaders, church planting, and missions? (What is the tie? How do they flow from each other?)**

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

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

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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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)

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

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