

SBC22 9 Marks at 9: What's Wrong with Us? Revival vs. Revivalism

June 4, 2023

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 "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.'" "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 **Contra, Ill-fruit of revivalism vs. true revival--Speed and numbers in name of evangelism/conversion can lead to downplaying core ingredients of the gospel as defined by baptism and the Lord's Supper making it harder to uphold their purposes/integrity—they become valueless;** yes, the obvious bait and switch that comes from seeking numbers/success, but subtler trojan horses such as desiring our children/spouses/friends to be saved makes us sloppy with teaching/living intricacies of living life of faith in Christ showing evidence of true conversion; YES, instances of mass conversions, but results would be proved by life among the people of God, lived accountable to God's Word to accomplish His will; this not optional—it PROVES love for God which results from seeing love of God for us in gospel which reconciles us to our position with and under God; **How would even our small little look at these ordinances—continuing to study, strengthen and clarify these biblically actually promote healthy churches and protect against nominalism and unholiness?** Help us clarify gospel so give it right—Harold, Stan, Brad—little bit, long time ago—pretend it was true, do you remember it? Live inside it? Live it? What have you done to clarify, deepen, further it? **Ie. II Pet. 3:18 but grow in the grace and knowledge . . . ; (simplify so focus here—not other places--lead us to look for real evidences of true faith right away both in our lives and theirs** (prayer, hunger for Word, fellowship of saints **for purposes of growth and serving one another's souls THEN bodies—busy living on display, sharing good news—** ARE WE KNOWN FOR THESE THINGS? **VERY easy to look for own path by saying don't have to, that's your opinion, OR, "they are doing it wrong"—some of that MAY be true, but need SOMETHING tangible in these basic areas:** Slow w membership, baptism, Lord's Supper, maybe too slow—but think—**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?** Strength of gospel/trustworthiness of God's word and purposes goes down; **if these ordinances DON'T have right place—baptized INTO Christ Col. 3:1-3, Rom. 6, communion/ fellowship w God tied to fellowship with His people I John (ex-commun-icated), then gospel not identifier, instead, everyone does what is right in own eyes, lift up what each other wants us to lift up as the identifier** (my gifts, my personality, my needs, my brokenness, OR my out of proportion focus on one aspect of God's kingdom—modesty/sexuality, discipline, Bible study, politics, serving others, fellowship, fixing societies ills like poverty/sex trafficking/racism, etc.—leads to "woke" language where people need to wake up to what THEY focus on rather than on what God focuses on); **result?** noise, busyness, but His will not done (**not only the well-worn path to liberalism, but also the doorway to immoral activity**); pretend some of this is necessary (not just "heady" discussion for those who want to argue or find fault), even if it still blows mind, makes uncomfortable, unnerving because feel like don't have time to consider/study/this not your personality/you already failing w what DO know and this seems like MORE; what would change look like? **How DO you change? How SHOULD we change? What's involved with biblical change that often gets overlooked in our change?** God **THIS is why we emphasized words in our membership class that are valuable here at Cornerstone—I think are necessary for all true growth and change definitely in our situation today—**put words in powerpoint (17 slides) —these ordinances put in right place will be affected by four themes that said should be preached which will put focus on Christ—give HOPE, not just terror with these ordinances **58:00-end Mark Dever** Positively, what should be marking our church is a love for God and a love for others. 5 distinct things should make up a lot of what we do in our churches. **Discipling, Evangelism, Raising up leaders, Church Planting, Missions** Like some more than others—but don't see how they all fit together; **what is the root of these five things? What is the "germ" he talks about? How does focusing on our churches being marked by loving God and loving others foster this germ?** Germ is following Jesus; ie. see it in discipling—me helping other people following Jesus—**if I claim I'm following Jesus, but don't help others following Jesus, then what do you mean about following Jesus?** Doesn't seem to be what Jesus said would be normal for those following Him; God determines how we love Him, how we love others—**focus is helping us/them follow Jesus—Jesus treasure of heaven because brings us to God; intercedes for us, etc.; love gets simple—find what God is valuing and value it; find what God is doing and do it; FILL life with this; Why will following Jesus individually/together naturally result in a culture of discipling, evangelism, raising up leaders, church planting, and missions? What is the tie? How do they flow from each other?**