



Doctrine: Baptism
From sermon 2.9.20

Read *Matthew 28:18-20*

Review and Questions from Sunday's sermon: Jesus commanded the Church to go into the world and make disciples of all nations. That included baptism and teaching them to obey everything He commanded. Baptism would be an outward sign of an inward change—regeneration, repentance, & indwelling of the Spirit. Like many doctrines, baptism has deviated from Scripture in history.

What are the Three Historic Controversies concerning baptism and what doctrinal stand does New Heights take?

- Symbolic or Supernatural: Symbolic
- Mode or Method: Sprinkling, Pouring, or Immersing: Immersion
- Babies or Believers: Believers only

What are the Three Reasons we don't baptize babies? Discuss each.

- Not commanded in Scripture.
- No teaching on what baptizing a baby would even accomplish.
- No examples/instances of a baby being baptized in Scripture.

Roman Catholic doctrine: Baptism saves (removes original sin) and makes the baby a Christian. That salvation is then secure as long as faithfulness to the Church and Sacraments remain and no Cardinal Sin is committed.

Reformed Doctrine: Babies are baptized into a covenant relationship/the new circumcision. Since the Church is the New Israel (to ethnic Israel's exclusion), this merely shows they are in the spiritual people.

Baptist Doctrine: Baptism is a testimony of faith and one of the first acts of grateful obedience. It beautifully symbolizes what has already taken place.

Read *Romans 6:4-5*. Discuss the beautiful and profound symbolism of water baptism.

Three Things Baptism Does Not Do

- Does not save you—*Ephesians 2:8-9*
- Does not empower you—*Acts 10:45-48*
- Does not need repeating—*John 13:8-10*

Who were the Anabaptists and why are they important? Reformation group/movement of the 16th century, who, after also studying the Scriptures, found no support or basis for infant baptism. They re-baptized each other as adults and ceased the practice of infant baptism in their churches. They set the stage for what would later immerse as Baptists* [*note: the Baptist denomination was birthed out of the Anglican Church, but held to many of the Anabaptist doctrine]

Review the 6 listed reasons why a Christian might not be baptized. Discuss.

1. Ignorance: didn't know. Has never been taught or emphasized.
2. Pride: I'm embarrassed. I don't like being in public settings. It's been so long since my conversion.
3. Indifference: it's no big deal. I'm saved...that's enough.
4. Defiance: I know I should, but I refuse. I'm currently living a sin and not willing to repent.
5. Unregenerate: I'm not really saved. I don't believe what my Church believes/teaches.
6. Logistics: I haven't had the opportunity. New Heights hasn't had a service.