

May 2, 2021

Viewpoint from the **Valley Grove Church Of Christ**

Why Denominational Baptism Is Wrong

By Steven J. Wallace

Undoubtedly, there are people who teach that a person can join any church that he wishes. The attitude is similar to that of buying shoes. We can try on many different styles and whatever feels the best, run with it. Another popular expression is, “Many roads lead to the same place.” Some problems with these expressions are that we are not buying shoes and the only time and place when all denominations will run together is on Judgment Day. Well, one may ask, “What is wrong with denominational baptism?”

Denominational Baptism — A Different Faith

Paul stated that there is, “one Lord, one faith, one baptism” (Eph. 4:5). This “one baptism” is a result from preaching the “one faith,” which is given by “one Lord” — Jesus Christ. If two people believe in one Lord, but have different faiths (gospel or body of truth; Gal. 1:23; 1 Cor. 15:1,2), how can they both be partakers of the same (one) Lord and baptism (Gal. 3:26-27)? How can both have remission of sins when both differ in faith and practice? Denominationalism perverts the gospel by teaching contradictory baptisms which are foreign to Jesus’ lordship. Can we be partakers of the Lord’s goodness if we stray from the primitive first-century message? Inspiration plainly teaches that we cannot, “. . . if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed” (Gal. 1:9). The Bible is clear that if someone believes a different gospel than what was preached by the apostles, he is turning away from Christ (Gal. 1:6). Since baptism is gospel, those who turn away from baptism into Christ (for the remission of sins) do not have Christ (cf. Rom. 6:1-18; 1 Cor. 15:1-4).

Denominational Baptism — A Different Element

Many denominations are not satisfied with the element in the “one baptism.” They try to combine water baptism with Holy Spirit baptism or make it into some metaphorical baptism. People usually turn to such “interpretive tactics” when they do not like what they read. Some teach that a person is supposed to speak in tongues after he is baptized. These apostate bodies are backwards in their combination. First of all, in the two accounts of Holy Spirit

baptism (Acts 2:1-4; 10:44-48), water baptism distinctly followed Holy Spirit baptism. Consequently, the scriptures teach that Holy Spirit baptism was for the purpose of revealing God's plan (Acts 11:18). It was not something to be obeyed nor can it be administered by man; it was administered by Jesus alone (see Matt. 3:11). The "one baptism" is water baptism, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?" (Acts 8:36). Also, "Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized?" (Acts 10:47).

We do not present these things motivated with strife, but that our readers will be educated in what the Bible says regarding such a subject. We obviously print material such as this as we perceive it to be of utmost importance to the readers understanding.

Since the Bible teaches that baptism is for the saving of the soul, what could be more important than printing truth that pertains to man's immortal and priceless soul? This information is therefore submitted in humility and prayer that it may be a tool to lead those who are looking into the law of liberty.

Please Also Consider:

The Mode Of Baptism

In violation of the New Testament practice, several denominations substituted the practice of "sprinkling" or "pouring" in place of baptism. Yet Paul tells us that baptism is a burial, and that it corresponds to the death, burial and resurrection of Christ (Rom. 6:3-9). How does sprinkling compare to Jesus' death, burial and resurrection? Does one resurrect from being sprinkled? If "sprinkling" is equivalent with "baptism," then we should be able to insert "sprinkling" in the Bible for "baptism." This is how Roman 6:4 would read, "Therefore we were buried with Him through sprinkling [baptism, actual text] into death . . ." Such a rendering sows nonsense in the context. Such a view would have Philip and the eunuch going down "into the water" so that Philip could sprinkle him (Acts 8:38). Why would they both have had to go down into the water for a sprinkling? Philip could have merely grabbed a cup full of water and splashed it in the Ethiopian's face and called it "baptism." Beware of denominations which substitute human ways for God's, for they are nothing more than a human substitution for the church. We need to stay in the boundaries of the Bible!

The Purpose Of Baptism

The purpose of water baptism is for the remission of sins, getting into Christ, and getting into His death where reconciliation is (Acts 2:38; Gal. 3:27; Rom. 6:3; 5:10,11). In other words, the purpose of baptism is for salvation as our Lord clearly stated, "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned" (Mk. 16:16). Likewise, "There is

also an antitype which now saves us—baptism. . .” (1 Pet. 3:21). What does all of this prove? It proves that denominational baptism is contradictory to our Lord when it is administered as something that the saved do to show their grace. Baptism is something that sinners do to be saved! Denominational baptism therefore simply gets people wet, but doesn’t connect people to the blood of Christ. Since teaching always precedes Bible baptism, one cannot be taught denominational error and be baptized right!

“Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?— unless indeed you are disqualified.” (2 Cor. 13:5)

The Bible And Homosexuality

By Steven J. Wallace

“You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination. . . If a man lies with a male as he lies with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination. They shall surely be put to death. Their blood shall be upon them.” (Lev. 18:22; 20:13)

“For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman burned in their lust for one

another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. . . God gave them over to a debase mind to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness. . .” (Rom. 1:26-29)

“Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites. . . will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed. . .” (1 Cor. 6:9-11)

“Knowing this: that the law is not made for a righteous person, but for the lawless and insubordinate, for the ungodly and for sinners . . . for fornicators, for sodomites . . . and if there is any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine.” (1 Tim. 1:9,10)

“As Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.” (Jude 7)

As you can see, we simply placed in this article what the Bible says about homosexuality. It is not “my interpretation” or “your opinion” that makes it right or wrong. Rather, it is what God has said about such matters. From the above, you can see that the Bible treats homosexuality as a capital offense. In fact, it is

condemned in both the Old and New Testaments.

God referred to homosexuality as “vile,” “against nature,” “shameful,” “unrighteous,” grounds for disqualification from the “kingdom of God,” “contrary to sound doctrine,” “not fitting,” and “going after strange flesh.” It is “strange flesh” because God ordained that the sexual order be fulfilled in the marriage bed, in the bond between one man and one woman for one life (Cf. Gen. 2:18-25; Matt. 19:9). God’s word authorizes no other arrangement. The above scriptures also indicate that some first-century Christians had been homosexuals, but they had repented and been washed in the blood of Jesus by baptism (Cf. Acts 18:8).

Homosexual Rights???

We hear a lot of homosexuals crying for “rights.” Should they have rights? Absolutely, but not necessarily the ones they request. Rather, they should have the right to hear the gospel truth (Mk. 16:15; Rom. 1:16). They should have the right to read this article. They should have the right to repent of their sins and obey the gospel (Lk. 13:3; Acts 17:30; Heb. 5:9).

May Birthdays: 16th Stephen Collins; 26th Lowell Blue

Visitors — We pray that you benefit spiritually from our worship together and hope to see you again.

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Worship 10:30 A.M.
Worship 5:00 P.M.

Wednesday
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