

Suggestions Regarding Baptism

Introduction

- A. The act of baptism appears to hold a great deal more importance in the day of the Bible and Early Church -- than we give it today.

- B. The basic question: Is baptism simply a step of affirmation/confirmation that opens to door to Church membership? Or is baptism designed by God to be a profound act of faith and love that results in powerful spiritual responses in and for the candidate and powerful repercussions in the spiritual world? Is there something that is supposed to happen to the candidate -- when baptism is performed correctly?

- C. The issue at hand:
 - 1. What should we teach the candidate about baptism?
 - 2. What should be his or her response/affirmation/renunciation?
 - 3. What should be the expectation of the candidate in the act of baptism?

- D. While rejecting baptismal regeneration -- it may be significant that Peter, on the Day of Pentecost, referred to baptism as having to do with “forgiveness” and “receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

- E. Reflecting back on my baptism as a young Christian I wish now the pastor had taught me and then led me to **declare** something like the following:

The Affirmation of Faith

By this act of baptism I hereby **declare**, in the presence of God, His holy angels, and my friends, that I believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is the Son of the Living God, that He was born of the Virgin Mary into our time and human nature, that He lived a holy life for me, and died as my substitute upon the cross. I hereby **declare** that I believe He rose again from the dead, and ascended to Heaven -- where He now represents me as my Great High Priest. I hereby **declare** that He sent the Holy Spirit to indwell me until He comes in His glorious majesty. I hereby **declare** that I have believed upon the Lord Jesus as my Savior, that I have surrendered myself and everything I have to Him as my Lord. And by this act of baptism I go on record that I invite the Holy Father, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Blessed Holy Spirit to fill me with Himself -- and to rule over me.

(over)

The Renunciation of the World

By this act of baptism I hereby **declare** that I renounce the evil world in which I live. I repudiate the sinful idolatry and self-centeredness of this world and the forces of demonic evil behind it. I hereby choose to live in freedom from this world system and invite the Holy Spirit to cleanse me from all worldly relationships.

The Renunciation of the Devil and Wicked Spirit

By this act of baptism I hereby **declare** to Satan and all Wicked Spirits that I fully reject and repudiate them. I hereby **declare** that Jesus Christ my Lord defeated Satan and his kingdom in the Crucifixion and Resurrection. I **declare** that Satan and all Wicked Spirits are under the feet of the Lord Jesus, and under my feet. I take back all ground I have given them. I renounce and repudiate all the demonic activity and ground that has come to me from my ancestral line. I reject all curses and demonic prayers that are related to me. I command, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, that all Wicked Spirits must leave me, that they must leave every facet of my life, and take all their work with them.

Name _____

Date _____

Witness(s) _____