WHAT IS WRONG WITH DENOMINATIONAL BAPTISM?

INTRODUCTION

1. All denominations, except the Christian Scientists and the Quakers, practice some rite that they call "baptism".
2. Many people, therefore, have submitted to some ordinance that was called baptism.
3. Denominations teach that one must be baptized to get into their denomination, but one does not have to be baptized to be saved.
   
   (1) They generally want one to be baptized by one of their ordained preachers.
4. When many people learn about the New Testament church, they often want to come into the church on their denominational baptism.
5. If there is something wrong with denominational baptism, and I think there is, these people need to be told plainly about it.
6. This we will attempt to do in this lesson.

II. DENOMINATIONAL BAPTISM HAS THE WRONG AUTHORITY

1. Denominational councils and creeds authorize denominational baptism.
2. Little Flock Baptist church says: "However, since we believe baptism is a church ordinance, we would require that your baptism be under the authority of a Baptist church."
3. Jesus Christ authorized the baptism of the New Testament -- Matt. 28: 18 - 19; Mark 16: 15 - 16; Col. 3:17; Acts 2:38
5. The ONE baptism of Eph. 4:5 does not put one into a denomination -- it puts one into the body of Christ, the church -- I Cor. 12:13; Acts 2:47
6. The baptism by the authority of Christ and baptism by the authority of a denomination are two different baptisms.

II. DENOMINATIONAL BAPTISM HAS THE WRONG SUBJECT

1. Denominational bodies baptize infants, children, and people who think they are saved, rather than persons who desire to be saved.
2. The subject of baptism in the New Testament was an alien sinner desiring to be saved -- Acts 2:37 - 38; Mk. 16: 15 - 16; Acts 8:35 - 39
3. People in the New Testament in apostolic days who were subjects of baptism BELIEVED (Mk. 16:16); REPENTED (Acts 2:38); CONFESSIONED CHRIST TO BE THE SON OF GOD (Acts 8:37); and WERE BAPTIZED TO HAVE THEIR SINS WASHED AWAY (Acts 22: 16).

III. DENOMINATIONAL BAPTISM HAS THE WRONG CONFESSION

1. Persons in the New Testament confessed their faith in Christ as the only confession required for Baptism in the New Testament -- Acts 8:37; Rom. 10: 10
2. Persons desiring to undergo denominational baptism will be asked to confess agreement with the sectarian creed.

3. The most common confession is the unscriptural confession wherein one states that he believes that God for Christ's sake has pardoned his sins.

IV. DENOMINATIONAL BAPTISM HAS THE WRONG PURPOSE

1. Denominations tell people to be baptized "because they are already saved".

2. They believe one is saved by the direct operation of the Holy Spirit.

3. Most teach that Baptism is into that particular denomination, rather than into Christ -- Gal. 3: 26 - 27; Rom. 6: 3 - 4

4. Little Flock Baptist church says, "If you believe that God wants you to be a member of our church and are willing to demonstrate that belief by coming as a candidate for Baptism, we will gladly welcome you into the fellowship of our church" -- from "How to Join Little Flock Baptist Church"

5. The New Testament teaches that baptism is in order to be saved from past sins -- Acts 2:38; Mk. 16:16; Acts 22:16; I Pet. 3:21

V. DENOMINATIONAL BAPTISM HAS THE WRONG ORDER

1. The denominational order is:
   (1) Repentance
   (2) Faith only
   (3) Salvation
   (4) Baptism, because you are already saved.

2. The NEW TESTAMENT order is:
   (1) Faith -- Mk. 16: 15 - 16; Acts 18:8
   (2) Repentance -- Acts 2:38
   (3) Confession -- Acts 8:37
   (4) Baptism for the remission of sins -- Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16

VI. DENOMINATIONAL BAPTISM USUALLY HAS THE WRONG ACTION

1. Many denominations teach -- "Dipping of the persons into the water is not necessary; but baptism is rightly administered by pouring or sprinkling water upon the person" -- page 103 The Confession of Faith of the Presbyterian church"

2. Scriptural baptism is a BURIAL -- Rom. 6: 3 - 4; Col. 2:12

VII. DENOMINATIONAL BAPTISM PUTS ONE INTO THE WRONG CHURCH

1. It is by the baptism of that denomination that one becomes a member of that denominational church.

2. It is a rule of entrance, and there is no membership without it.

3. Denominational baptism that puts one into a human denomination does not put one into the Lord's church.

VIII. DENOMINATIONAL BAPTISM CAUSES ONE TO WEAR THE WRONG NAME

1. When one is baptized with denominational baptism he wears the name of that denomination.

2. When one is baptized in the name of Christ he DOES NOT WEAR HUMAN NAMES -- I Cor. 1:13; Acts 2:38

CONCLUSION

1. One cannot be taught WRONG and BAPTIZED right -- Acts 19: 1 - 5

2. One cannot be BAPTIZED WRONG and WORSHIP RIGHT.

3. One cannot WORSHIP WRONG and LIVE RIGHT.

4. One cannot LIVE WRONG and DIE RIGHT.

5. THEREFORE, one cannot be BAPTIZED WRONG and DIE RIGHT.

6. Friend, have you been SCRIPTURALLY BAPTIZED?

7. The plan of salvation: Hear, believe, repent, confess, and be baptized.

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