

**Rebuilding the Foundation of Fellowship and the One Baptism**  
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**Introduction:** Each person in each generation must choose the foundation they will build.

A. God has clearly shown us the only foundation that will last. (**Eph 2:20**)

**Ephesians 2:20** <sup>20</sup> having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone,

1. This foundation consists of delivered words. (**Jn 17:14, 17, 20**)

**John 17:14** <sup>14</sup> "I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

**John 17:17** <sup>17</sup> "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

**John 17:20** <sup>20</sup> " I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word;

2. Look at how God equipped the church! (**Eph 4:11-12**)

**Ephesians 4:11-12** <sup>11</sup> And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

3. When local churches function as they ought then future generations are prepared! This begins in the home.

B. Bible and church history shows us that God's people often fail in teaching the next generation. (**1 Tim 4:1; 2 Tim 4:3-4**)

**1 Timothy 4:1** Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,

**2 Timothy 4:3-4** <sup>3</sup> For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, *because* they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; <sup>4</sup> and they will turn *their* ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

1. I pray you have been personally blessed to build such a foundation.

2. Consistently the first step away from this foundation is a compromised fellowship. When a group is moving in a direction it can be hard to resist.

3. The desire to put human relationships above God is powerful. (**Gal 1:10**)

**Galatians 1:10** <sup>10</sup> For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.

### ***I. Fellowship and Water Baptism***

A. Why have differences on the subject of water baptism historically demanded a separation of fellowship?

1. Jesus placed baptism as a foundational doctrine for all Christians. (**Eph 4:4-6**)

**Ephesians 4:4-5** <sup>4</sup> *There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling;* <sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism;

2. Paul indicated that all Christians were brought into fellowship with Christ and His blood at the point of baptism. (**Rom 6:3-4; Gal 3:26-27**)

**Romans 6:3-4** <sup>3</sup> Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? <sup>4</sup> Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

**Galatians 3:26-27** <sup>26</sup> For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>27</sup> For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

B. In the reformation movement the Anabaptist were severely persecuted for their correct belief that only believers should be baptized and that baptism was a burial.

1. Should only believers be baptized? (**Mk 16:15-16; Acts 8:36-38**)

**Mark 16:15-16** <sup>15</sup> And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. <sup>16</sup> "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

**Acts 8:36-38** <sup>36</sup> Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, *here is* water. What hinders me from being baptized?" <sup>37</sup> Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." <sup>38</sup> So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.

2. The Bible teaches that baptism is an immersion. (**Rom 6:4; Col 2:12**)

**Romans 6:3-4** <sup>3</sup> Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? <sup>4</sup> Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

3. These truths if accepted would create great political and social upheaval. Many lost their lives in proclaiming this truth. They has to be quite or be cast out.

4. Was there a "third way" where both views could work together in fellowship? Could both views be equally taught and believed? Only if both views were regarded as unimportant and discardable.

5. A compromised fellowship will lead to convenience becoming the determining factor.

Men will ask: "What is the easiest doctrine to practice?" (**1 Kgs 12:28**)

**1 Kings 12:28** <sup>28</sup> Therefore the king asked advice, made two calves of gold, and said to the people, "It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here are your gods, O Israel, which brought you up from the land of Egypt!"

## ***II. How should we apply God's teaching on Baptism?***

A. We will seek to have every person find and receive this one baptism.

1. Baptism is the final step to find forgiveness of sins. (**Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16**)

**Acts 2:38** - <sup>38</sup> Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.  
**Acts 22:16** <sup>16</sup> 'And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.'

2. We will teach every man these delivered words that one would then naturally seek this baptism! (**Acts 8:35-36**)

**Acts 8:35-36** <sup>35</sup> Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him. <sup>36</sup> Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, *here is* water. What hinders me from being baptized?"

3. If there is not clear, repeated, consistent teaching over time then many may give in to compromise. (Ex. Preacher refused to talk about baptism in Jn 3.. "too divisive.")

B. Consider some questions each of us should ask about our baptism.

1. When were you saved by the blood of Christ?
2. How old were you?
3. How long after your salvation were you baptized?
4. For what purpose were you baptized?
5. How long after your request to be baptized were you actually baptized?
6. What did you confess before you were baptized?
7. How were you baptized? That is was it sprinkling, pouring of immersion in water?

C. These questions address critical teachings that comprise the one baptism. (**Eph 4:4-5**)  
**Ephesians 4:4-5** <sup>4</sup> *There is* one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; <sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism;

1. Paul did this very thing! (**Acts 19:1-5**)

**Acts 19:1-5** And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples <sup>2</sup> he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" So they said to him, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit." <sup>3</sup> And he said to them, "Into what then were you baptized?" So they said, "Into John's baptism." <sup>4</sup> Then Paul said, "John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus." <sup>5</sup> When they heard *this*, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

2. The promise given on Pentecost could be understood by all! (**Acts 2:38**)

**Acts 2:38** - <sup>38</sup> Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

3. The men Paul met were sincerely baptized but they lacked important teaching and purpose. This lack of teaching and purpose still left them in need of baptism!

4. Look over the above questions raised and consider how it reveals what was taught.
5. I am thankful for the one who pressed me on my baptism when I was in college.

### ***III. How can the next generation be given this precious promise?***

A. God's way will provide for each succeeding generation. (**Acts 2:38-39; 1 Tim 6:20-21**)  
**Acts 2:38-39** <sup>38</sup> Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> "For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**1 Timothy 6:20-21** <sup>20</sup> O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane *and* idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge -- <sup>21</sup> by professing it some have strayed concerning the faith. Grace *be* with you. Amen.

1. It requires that men will give themselves "entirely" to teaching these entrusted words.

This dedication does not come from a lukewarm faith. (**1 Tim 4:15-16; 2 Tim 2:2**)  
**1 Timothy 4:15-16** <sup>15</sup> Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. <sup>16</sup> Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.  
**2 Timothy 2:2** <sup>2</sup> And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

2. Laziness and the fear of conflict will destroy a local church. (**Rev 3:15-16**)

**Revelation 3:15-16** <sup>15</sup> "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. <sup>16</sup> "So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.

3. Do we not realize that our children and see the difference between conviction and convenience?

B. A commitment to faithfully teach without compromise will result in a proper fellowship!

1. Those who claim to have such a commitment to grace and love often have a sudden change when the word is boldly preached. (**Mt 15:13-15**)

**Matthew 15:13-15** <sup>13</sup> But He answered and said, "Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. <sup>14</sup> "Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch." <sup>15</sup> Then Peter answered and said to Him, "Explain this parable to us."

2. When the pulpit and the class is restricted from open teaching of God's word then God's fellowship has been discarded.

3. How can the next generation find faith and a good conscience?

(**1 Tim 1:3-5, 18-19; 4:1-2, 6-7, 13; 2 Tim 2:2**)

**1 Timothy 1:3-5** <sup>3</sup> As I urged you when I went into Macedonia -- remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine, <sup>4</sup> nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith. <sup>5</sup> Now the

purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, *from* a good conscience, and *from* sincere faith,

**1 Timothy 1:18-19** <sup>18</sup> This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, <sup>19</sup> having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck,

**1 Timothy 4:1-2** Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, <sup>2</sup> speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,

**1 Timothy 4:6-7** <sup>6</sup> If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed. <sup>7</sup> But reject profane and old wives' fables, and exercise yourself toward godliness.

**1 Timothy 4:13** <sup>13</sup> Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

**2 Timothy 2:2** <sup>2</sup> And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

C. A failed fellowship will result in assimilation with the world.

1. What will happen if you joined a local denomination and tried to teach the gospel?
2. You may be tolerated if only give financial support to those who differ with you, if you allow all who want to receive Christ be taught contrary to what you say you believe, and that only preachers and literature that teaches contrary to what you say you believe be used. Also you must be silent!
3. Could you accept those conditions and be taken seriously by anyone? A separation of fellowship is demanded! (**Rev 12:11**)

**Revelation 12:11** <sup>11</sup> "And they **overcame** him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

4. Consider the danger of assimilation. Consider the "*Confederados*."
5. The *Confederados* also have an annual festival, called the *Festa Confederada*... The festival is marked by Confederate flags, Confederate uniforms....

**Conclusion:** Do you remember these men: Ammiel? Nahbi? Geuel? ... Caleb? Joshua? (**Josh 24:15**)

**Joshua 24:15** <sup>15</sup> "And if it seems evil to you to **serve** the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will **serve**, whether the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my **house**, we will **serve** the LORD."