

Series: The Great Commission 6

Title: Establishing New Christians

Text: (Matt 28:19-20)

I remember holding each child for the 1st time.

I remember feeling immense Joy!

They were so tiny, vulnerable, Breakable.

I felt the weight of responsibility, they are depending on me to

Care for, Nurtured, Protected, Sheltered, Taught.

Momma said: "That Baby has you!"

The same is true for New Christians.

Born again as a Babe in Christ.

They are given all the rights & privileges of being God's child

They don't even know what they have been given.

They have to be taught how to walk, talk & cleanup their messes.

Some have never been taught, yet been saved for years.

Satan immediately works to undermine a New believer's confidence in the Gospel, Bible, God's Promises, & their decision to Trust Christ.

Satan tempts them to think their old life was better.

Satan tempts them to think their old life can be a part of the new life in Christ.

Satan will send them false teachers to draw them into a cult.
Large % of JW, Mormon converts were Baptists.

(Matt 28:20) *teaching them to observe all things, whatsoever I have commanded you.*

The Great Commission is not JUST about winning them to Christ.

Our job is to nurture people to become Mature Believers.

Our Mission Statement: To raise up successive generations of Self Growing, Serving, Christian Adults.

We are to Win the Lost to Christ.

We are Encourage believers to identify publicly with Christ in Baptism.

We are to nurture believers to grow.

Just like with a new baby, your investment in their lives have just begun.

Apostle Paul loved to preach where no one else had.

(Rom 15:20) *Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man's foundation:*

He also would go back and visit the new believers and encourage them to grow.

In (Acts 14:19), Paul preached Lystra.

Later: *And there came thither certain Jews from Antioch and Iconium, who persuaded the people, and, having stoned Paul, drew him out of the city, supposing he had been dead.*

Paul arose, and went to Derbe, but he could forget the new believers in Lystra,

(Acts 14:21-22) He returns to Lystra, Iconium, & Antioch to confirm these new believers.

Everyone needs someone to care enough to give them spiritual encourage, instruction, support, & biblical advise.

So how do we confirm people?

What does biblical growth look like?

After Salvation, what are some things every believer needs to know?

I. Early Instruction:

A. Assurance of Salvation:

Satan Immediately try to erode a new believer's faith.

Why? You will not talk about something you are not sure of.

He lost you, he cannot afford to have them infect anyone else.

1. God promises to save all who call on Him for Salvation.

(Rom 10:13) point them at "**Shall**"

*Whosoever shall call upon the Lord "**Shall**" be saved.*

(Titus 1:2) *In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;*

2. Eternal life is forever.

When does Eternal Life end?

(Rom 6:23) *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

There is nothing that we will do that would make Him throw us away. (John 6:37) *All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.*

You cannot Walk Away! You are not stronger than God!

(John 10:28-29) *And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. 29 My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.*

You are Sealed for All Time! He lives IN YOU!

(Eph 1:13-14) *In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, 14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.*

3. Being born again makes you part of God's family.

(John 1:12) *But as many as received him, to them gave he power to **become the sons of God**, even to them that believe on his name:*

(John 3:3) *Born Again - This is their Spiritual Birthday!*

Satan will try and stir up trouble by bringing condemning accusations into their thoughts when they sin.

I tell them that their will be times when they sin, but (1 Jn 2:1) *And if any man sin, **we have an advocate with the Father**, Jesus Christ the righteous:*

I tell them how to restore Fellowship with God: (1 Jn 1:9)

B. Baptism:

I explain that the 1st step of Obedience is Baptism.

(Matt 28:19) *baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:*

I am careful to explain that Baptism has nothing to do with Salvation!

1. *Baptism is an Identification.*

Baptism is a Symbol, an outward Expression of an inward decision.

Illus: Wearing a wedding ring doesn't make me married, it Identifies that I am Married.

Baptism Identifies the Believer with Christ's Death, Burial, and Resurrection.

(Rom 6:3-5) Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? 4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:

Baptism Identifies the Christian with the Local Church and it's Doctrine.

(Acts 2:41-42) Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. 42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

(Acts 19:1-5) (vs 3) Unto what then were ye baptized?

2. *Baptism is for every Christian.*

Baptism is for everyone that has personally received Jesus Christ as their Saviour.

(Acts 8:36-38) And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what

doth hinder me to be baptized? 37 And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. 38 And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.

Phillip wouldn't baptize him until he publicly professed Christ.

3. *Baptism should be by immersion.*

Baptize~ to plunge or to dunk.

Because Baptism symbolizes the Death, Burial, and Resurrection of Christ...

(Rom 6:5) For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:

Full Immersion in Water is the ONLY proper way.

We do Not Sprinkle dead people, we bury out of our sight. *(Gen 23:4) Abram said "that I may bury my dead out of my sight."*

(Col 2:12) Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

4. *Baptism should take place soon after salvation.*

In the Bible, Baptism happened immediately after salvation.

(Acts 2:41) "same day"

(Acts 16:31-33) "Straightway"

Sprinkled Baptism: *When you were "baptized" as an infant, did you understand any of what we have just talked about and were you saved then?*

C. Bible Reading and Prayer:

Salvation brings us into a Relationship with God that we cannot lose.

Know that we are in a Relationship with God, He desires Fellowship with us. (1 Jn 1:3) *That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.*

Our Fellowship with God requires Communication with us.
Reading the Bible is how we listen to God.
Prayer is God listening to us.

Encourage everyone to read their bible: (Josh 1:8)
I encourage them to start in the Gospel of John.
When asked for Advice, give them a Bible Answer.

Encourage everyone to Pray.
Whatever they need, or are facing, Prayer is the Answer.

D. Church Attendance:

Our Salvation gives places us into the Family of God, and gives us a Home in Heaven (John 14:2) *In my father's house are many mansions.*

Our Baptism places us into the Our Church Home here on earth, the Body of Christ, the Local NT church.

The devil try to convince every believer he can, that they don't need the church.

Then why did He command us not to forsake it?
(Heb 10:25) *Not forsaking the assembling of yourselves...*

Then why did He build it?

(Matt 16:18b) *upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*

Why did He give Himself for it?

(Eph 5:25b) *even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;*

Why did He choose to get His Glory Through it?

(Eph 3:21) *Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.*

The Local church is vital for Spiritual Growth.
It provides Preaching, Teaching, Fellowship with like minded believers.

Illus: When I got saved, I lost my Heathen Friends and needed New friends.

The devil is a master of sending the wrong friends in the lives of the New believer to discourage them.

Maybe you didn't win them but you can encourage them to grow.

You can befriend them

You can encourage them to be faithful to church.

You can encourage them to be faithful to read their bible.

You can give bible answers when asked for advice.

You can encourage them to be faithful to pray by praying with them for something they are concerned about.

The Devil is constantly working to discourage growth...

We need to constantly be encouraging others to grow.
(Heb 10:24)