

January 30, 2005

Shepherd's Community Church

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Selected Scriptures

“Growing in Your Relationship with Other Believers: *Sacraments*”

INTRO:

REVIEW: *Stop being pressed into the world's mold!*

• **World's mold:**

- **Mold # 1: Secularism.** Comes from Latin word meaning “world.” Secularism only thinks in the framework of this present time, not eternity!
  - **Mold # 2: Humanism.** Man is the ultimate being and ultimate authority; all reality and life center upon man.
  - **Mold # 3: Existentialism.** Founded by Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900) with the slogan, “God is dead!” If there is no God then life is meaningless. I must embrace this life with courage even though courage is meaningless too!
  - **Mold # 4: Relativism.** There is no ultimate reference point. Nothing is absolute.
  - **Mold # 5: Materialism.** Matter is all that there is. It leads to a life centered on money and possessions. Wealth gives purpose and meaning!
  - **Mold # 6: Pragmatism.** “What works?” Pragmatism is unconcerned with principles like goodness, truth, and justice. It simply wants to know what works.
  - **Mold # 7: Scientism.** When science becomes an **idol**. It believes that science alone is a rational guide to truth. Everything else is opinion. It believes that we will evolve to higher and higher levels and science will help us handle all of our problems. It rejects the idea that the heart of all our problems is our sin and rebellion against God.
  - **Mold # 8: Hedonism.** Man's ultimate purpose is to be found in enjoying pleasure and avoiding pain. “You only go around once in life...” “If it feels good, it is good!”
  - **Mold # 9: Neo-Paganism.** We live in a post-Christian nation. Now that the Scriptures are being rejected the old pagan beliefs will re-emerge.
    - Astrology, spirit guides, psychics, American Indian shamanism, nature goddess religions...
    - People seeing Jesus as an enlightened master rather than the unique Son of God and only means whereby men can be saved (Acts 4:12).
  - **Mold # 10: Antichristianity.** In 1 John the Apostle no sooner warns his readers not to love the world than he warns them of the Antichrist and Antichristianity (cf. 1 John 2:18).
- 1 Cor. 2:6; 7:31 – this world is passing away! Let's celebrate the Kingdom of Jesus Christ which is eternal!

I. **Sacraments cannot \_\_\_\_\_ us!**

A. **Baptism**

1. Acts 2:38

2. Acts 22:16

3. Mk. 16:16

4. 1 Peter 3:21

## **B. Lord's Supper – Mt. 26:20ff; Lk. 22:21**

## **II. Sacraments can help \_\_\_\_\_ us!**

### **A. Baptism**

1. Openly identifies you as a follower of Christ (Mt. 28:19; Titus 2:14; Acts 2:41; 9:18; 16:30-31; Eph. 5:31-32)
2. Openly obeys the command of Christ (Mt. 28:19-20 – the One that has all authority)
3. Openly expresses your faith in many truths:
  - a. God is Triune (Mt. 28:19).
  - b. Your sins have been washed away (Acts 2:38)
  - c. You have been united with Christ in His death and resurrection (Rom. 6:3-5; 1 Cor. 12:13).
  - d. Through Christ God has given you a new life (2 Cor. 5:17; Rom. 6:4; John 11:25)

### **B. Lord's Supper**

1. 1 Cor. 10:16 – “sharing” = “communion” or “fellowship”
2. 1 Cor. 11:17-34
  - It reminds us to deal with prejudice (v. 17-22)
  - It reminds us to examine our hearts and see if we are walking worthy of our Lord and Savior (v. 27-28)
  - It reminds us to evaluate if God is disciplining us for some reason (v. 29-32)
  - It reminds us to love one another in practical ways (v. 33-34)

**III. Sacraments can \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ us!**

**A. Baptism**

1. Acts 2; 8; 10
2. 1 Peter 3:21
3. Mt. 28:19-20
4. Romans 15:7

**B. Lord's Supper**

1. 1 Cor. 11:26
2. Mt. 26:29

**Conclusion:**

### Discussion Questions:

1. Of the 10 worldly “molds” mentioned above, which one do you think has the greatest influence in our culture today? Do you see a logical flow to these molds (assuming you believe the first one)? Do you see any evidence of these culminating in mold #10 in our culture? Why would people that believe those worldly things not want to have Christians around?
2. Of the 10 worldly molds which one(s) has (have) the greatest negative influence on you personally? What can you do to overcome this influence and be transformed like God desires (Romans 12:2)?
3. At SCC we do not believe that the sacraments can save us? What passages could you find to support this position of the church? (Hint: there are hundreds of passages that speak of salvation without any mention of baptism or the Lord’s Supper. Happy hunting!)
4. Have you been baptized as a “believer”? If no, why haven’t you? If yes, did you understand what baptism symbolized when you did it?
5. In what way does baptism sanctify us? In what way does attending the baptism of someone else sanctify those of us that are already saved?
6. In what way does the Lord’s Supper sanctify us? What can we do to prepare ourselves for this special time of communion with the Lord and one another?
7. What excuses do people give for not attending baptism / Lord’s Supper ceremonies? What reasons could you give them as to why they should do everything humanly possible to be there?
8. Are you committed to the Great Commission? What are the evidences in your life right now? How does it show in your “**going**”? How does it show in your “**baptizing**”? How does it show in your “**teaching** them to observe all that I commanded you”? How does it show in your prayer life? How does it show in your financial giving?