

WHAT’S WRONG WITH DENOMINATIONAL BAPTISM?

John Edwards

This is a question unsettled in the minds of some. Let’s take a look at some things that are wrong with denominational baptism.

THE WRONG AUTHORITY.

Jesus has all authority in heaven and earth (Mt. 28:18). Since Christ has all authority, that leaves none for any man or group of men! Christ never commanded anyone to be baptized into any denomination.

THE WRONG SUBJECTS.

Subjects of denominational baptism are often those who think they are already saved, before and without baptism. It is the penitent believer who is to be baptized *“for the remission of sins”* (Acts 2:38; Mk. 16:16).

THE WRONG CONFESSION.

Many are taught to confess their sins or whether they feel they are saved. The Scriptures teach that men must confess Jesus Christ as the Son of God (Mt. 10:32; Acts 8:37; Rom. 10:9-10).

THE WRONG PURPOSE.

The purpose of denominational baptism is to get into a man-made organization instead of the Lord’s church. The Bible

teaches, *“For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body...”* (1 Cor. 12:13). There is one body (Eph. 4:4). The body is the church (Eph. 1:22-23).

THE WRONG ALLEGIANCE.

Denominational baptism binds men to wear a human name and endorse a man-made creed. Bible baptism makes one a Christian (Acts 11:26; 26:28; 1 Pet. 4:16). Our allegiance is to Christ and His will!

THE WRONG ORDER. The denominational order is repentance, faith, salvation, baptism. The Bible order is faith, repentance, confession, baptism, salvation. Every case of conversion in the book of Acts puts salvation after baptism, never before!

THE WRONG EMPHASIS.

Denominational baptism puts the emphasis on attracting men to man-made institutions, names, creeds, and programs. We should be attracted to Christ (Jn. 12:32) and the gospel (Rom. 1:16).

It is very important that one is baptized the Bible way. Bible baptism is the only baptism that saves (Eph. 4:5; 1 Pet. 3:21).

BODILY POSITIONS WHILE PRAYING

John Edwards

Some bind kneeling while praying. The Bible gives examples of many different positions of the body while praying.

KNEELING. There are examples of folks kneeling down to pray. It is said concerning Jesus, *“And he was withdrawn from them about a stone’s cast, and kneeled down, and prayed”* (Lk. 22:41). At the death of Tabitha, Peter *“kneeled down, and prayed”* (Acts 9:40). Paul *“kneeled down, and prayed”* with the Ephesian elders in Acts 20:36.

STANDING. Some recorded in the Bible stood while praying to God. At the temple dedication, Solomon *“stood before the altar of the Lord”* and prayed (1 Ki. 8:22-23). A publican was *“standing afar off”* while praying (Lk. 18:10-14). The Lord talked about, *“when ye stand praying”* (Mk. 11:25).

LIFTING UP OF HANDS. The Bible mentions lifting up of hands in prayer unto God (Lam. 2:19). Psalm 28:2 reveals, *“Hear the voice of my supplications, when I cry unto thee, when I lift up my hands toward thy holy oracle.”* The

apostle Paul wrote, *“I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting”* (1 Tim. 2:8).

LOOKING UP TO HEAVEN. In the Lord’s prayer of John 17, *“These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven...”* (Jn. 17:1). The Lord looked up into the sky as He uttered this prayer. Heaven is the place where God dwells (1 Ki. 8:30).

FALLING ON FACE. Several in the Old and New Testaments were said to have fallen on their faces and prayed. Moses and Aaron *“fell upon their faces”* and prayed for the people of Israel (Num. 16:22). *“David and the elders of Israel, who were clothed in sackcloth, fell upon their faces”* as David talked to God in 1 Chronicles 21:16-17. In Matthew 26:39, Jesus *“fell on his face, and prayed...”*

The Bible emphasizes the condition of man’s heart not the position of the physical body in prayer.

SOME THINGS JOB KNEW

John Edwards

When Job suffered, there were some things he did not know and could not explain. Yet, there are some things this man of God knew. Take a look.

“I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVETH.” Job exclaimed, *“For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth”* (Job 19:25). We have sinned against God and need a redeemer (Rom. 3:23). Christ is the great redeemer, and He *“ever liveth”* (Heb. 7:25). He *“gave Himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works”* (Titus 2:14).

“I KNOW THOU WILT BRING ME TO DEATH.” Job said, *“For I know that thou wilt bring me to death, and to the house appointed for all living”* (Job 30:23). We all need to realize *“...it is appointed unto men once to die”* (Heb. 9:27). Paul told the Corinthians, *“For*

as in Adam all die...” (1 Cor. 15:22).

“I KNOW NOT TO GIVE FLATTERING TITLES.” Job uttered, *“Let me not, I pray you, accept any man’s person, neither let me give flattering titles unto man. For I know not to give flattering titles; in so doing my maker would soon take me away”* (Job 32:21-22). The Lord condemned giving flattering titles unto man in Matthew 23:8-10.

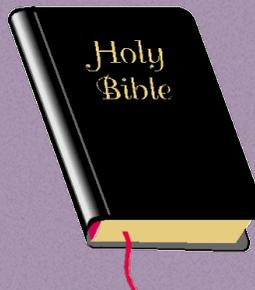
“I KNOW THOU CANST DO EVERY THING, AND NO THOUGHT CAN BE WITHHOLDEN FROM THEE.” Job answered the Lord with these words in Job 42:1-2. This shows that God is all powerful and nothing is too hard for the Lord (Gen. 18:14). We need to realize, *“...with God all things are possible”* (Mt. 19:26). David told his son, Solomon, *“...the Lord searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts...”* (1 Chr. 28:9). It is written, *“...all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do”* (Heb. 4:13).

The Terre Haute **SPEAKER** is published weekly by the church of Christ at Terre Haute, Indiana.

Assembling At:
4017 E Margaret DR
Terre Haute, IN 47803
[Exit 11 (I-70) W on HWY 46,
W on Margaret DR approx. 1 mile]

Assembling Times:
Sunday @ 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.

Come be with us!



We Speak Where the Bible Speaks.

We Are Silent Where the Bible Is Silent.

We Do Bible Things in Bible Ways.

www.churchofchristatterrehaute.com