

A “Sound” Church

Sometimes Christians will look for a “sound” church to attend on vacation, when they move, etc. Are we a “sound” church here at Warfield Boulevard? What makes a church a “sound” church? Is it a church that has a good reputation? A church that bears the name “church of Christ”? A church that does not engage in “liberalism” or “institutionalism”? A church that does not use instruments? A church that does not teach error on marriage, divorce, and remarriage? A church may be “sound” (or “conservative”) because of the above positions, but those things alone do not determine “soundness”.

The word “sound” (Greek *hugies, hugiano*) in the New Testament means healthy, whole, uncorrupt. (We get our English word “hygiene” from this Greek word.) The New Testament speaks of “sound” doctrine (1 Tim. 1:10; 2 Tim. 4:3; Tit. 1:9; 2:1), “sound” words (1 Tim. 6:3; 2 Tim. 1:13), “sound” faith (Tit. 1:13; 2:2), and “sound” speech (Tit. 2:8).

A “sound” church according to God’s standard would be a church that is organized scripturally (Acts 14:23; Phil. 1:1), a church that worships scripturally (Jn. 4:24), a church that works scripturally: evangelism, edification, benevolence (1 Cor. 15:58; Eph. 2:10), a church that upholds all Bible truths (1 Tim. 3:15), a church that demands truth (2 Tim. 4:2-4), a church that is disciplined with pure and faithful members (Phil. 2:15; 2 Thess. 3:6), a church that is active in its membership (Rom. 12:4-8; Eph. 4:16), and a church that teaches and practices all that the Lord authorizes and only what the Lord authorizes.

Now, I ask again, “Are we a ‘sound’ church?” (2 Cor. 13:5) - *Chris Reeves*

Sentence Sermons

- Many people will believe a lie if you tell it big enough, loud enough, and long enough.
- It takes wisdom to receive good advice just as much as it takes to give it.
- Many people who live alone (due to their selfishness) will die alone.
- Thinkers don’t drink and drinkers don’t think.
- Think about it. God provides food for the birds, but he doesn’t put it in their nest.

Warfield Blvd. church of Christ
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Clarksville, TN 37043

Website
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Assembly Times
Sunday: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, 6 pm
Wednesday: 7 pm

Everyone Is Welcome!
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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

The Age of Accountability

Young people, parents, Bible class teachers, and preachers are all asked about the so-called “age of accountability”. “What is the right age for a person to be baptized and become a Christian?” Only general Bible principles can be given in answer to this question. No specific age can be given in the scriptures. The person who needs to obey the gospel, needs to be convinced themselves of the gospel truth; no one can force him to obey. Let’s consider a few Bible truths that will help us to answer this question.

The Bible teaches that all people are born innocent (Eccl. 7:29; Jer. 19:4; Mt. 18:3). All people are first without knowledge of good or evil (Deut. 1:39; Isa. 7:16). They have to be taught those things. All people soon learn to know and understand the difference between right (good) and wrong (evil) – Mt. 15:10; Rom. 2:18; Phil. 1:10; Jas. 4:17. All people have sinned (Rom. 3:23). All sin is a violation of God’s law (Rom. 7:7-11; 1 Jn. 3:4; 5:17). All sin separates (Isa. 59:1-2; Rom. 6:23). All people are accountable for their own sin (Ezek. 18:20). And, all people need to wash away their sin in baptism (Acts 2:38; 22:16). These Bible truths we know and are confident about. Different people come to the knowledge of these truths at different ages in their life.

There are different traditions around the world concerning when a person becomes responsible, but these are simply

traditions. They are not scripture. Depending on the culture, the age of maturity ranges from 12 to 20 around the world.

Traditions from other peoples around the world do not establish an “age of accountability” for us today. Jesus at age 12 does not establish an “age of accountability” (Lk. 2:46-51). The NT does not give an age of accountability. Think about it. How old must one be to become an elder (1 Tim. 3; Titus 1)? No specific age is given, only qualifications.

Here are some questions to ask in order to better understand this issue. Am I old enough to drive, vote, or marry? Am I old enough to understand the plan of salvation, but not the responsibilities of a Christian? I must understand baptism and the plan of salvation, but I must also understand the practices and responsibilities of being a Christian (Rom. 6:3-4).

Am I desiring to be baptized because I see other young people I know being baptized? I must be baptized whenever I become truly convicted, but for no other reason (Jn. 16:8; Acts 2:47). Do I want to wait and be baptized at the next service? I must be baptized whenever I see the urgency of baptism (Acts 22:16). Can I talk about the specific sins that I have committed, when I committed them, and why they are wrong? I must be convicted of sin before I am baptized (Jn. 16:8; Acts 2:47). Can I be talked out of being baptized? I am ready when I will not allow anyone or anything to hinder me from being baptized (Acts 8:36).

Can I explain to others how my life will be different after baptism? I will be raised to walk in newness of life after baptism (Rom. 6:3-6). Do I understand the commitment I am making as a disciple? I must understand what follows baptism just as much as what precedes baptism (Lk. 9:57-62; 14:25-35).

We certainly do not want to discourage anyone, young or old, from being baptized. But, we do want to avoid these potential problems: Baptized, but for the wrong reason. Baptized, but did not fully understand it. Baptized only because others are. Delaying baptism and being lost.

Remember, baptism is for sinners (Acts 2:38; 22:16), baptism is for the penitent sinner (Acts 2:37-38), and baptism is for believers who understand what they are taught (Acts 8:37; 18:8; Rom. 10:9-10). Only you know if you are mature in these areas for baptism. The “age of accountability” is not an age (year) at all, but a level of readiness and maturity and everyone is ready and mature at different times.

Baptism, like marriage, is a serious, life-long commitment that must be entered into with readiness and maturity (2 Cor. 11:3). We will all be held accountable in the judgment day for our innocence or our guilt (Mt. 12:36; Rom. 14:12; 2 Cor. 5:10; 1 Pet. 4:5). Let us pray to God for wisdom in this matter so that we can all be ready and accountable when Jesus returns. - Chris Reeves