

1. Baptism

- a. **Romans 6:1-4 (ESV) ¹ What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ² By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.**
- b. **Baptism is our public commitment to love and live in covenant faithfulness to God.**
 - i. Recognition of Historical Grace: salvation
 - ii. Assertion of Present Grace: Faith
 - iii. Expression of Future Grace: Commitment to Faithful obedience
- c. The connection between baptism and 1 Cor 11:2-16
 - i. Baptism is a commitment to live by faith in obedience to God's revealed will
 - ii. Baptism is a commitment to embrace and abide in passages like 1 Corinthians 11:2-16.

2. Essential Background on 1 Cor 11:2-16 From Last Three Weeks

- a. God expressed the magnificence of His glory in creation by bringing order out of chaos
- b. Christians, dedicated to the proclamation of God's glory word and deed, glorify God when they retain and maintain the order of creation in their lives and worship.
- c. Personal lifestyle choices in private and in public, and especially when the church is gathered for worship, should reflect the covering of God's glory we have in and through Christ
 - i. **All Christians ought to maintain, in every area of their lives, the marks of decency, humility, morality, and faithfulness their culture will recognize as setting them apart in Christ.**
 - ii. We should be so thoroughly Christian no wonder ever has to wonder whose side we're on.

3. The Connection Between 1 Cor 11:2-16 and Us

- a. Paul uses the example of head coverings for married women in ancient Corinth to make the point that our commitment to the glory of God ought to be immediately evident to the lost and broken culture around us.
- b. **Where does this passionate plea for radical discipleship meet us in our culture?**
 - i. At what point of intersection do we have the greatest opportunity to live our faith in Christ and commitment to God's glory most clearly in our community?
 - (1) Women don't wear hats

- (2) Dress code has changed such that men and women's dress is not always distinctive
- (3) Now, with same-sex marriage, a wedding band is not even a social clear indicator between married and unmarried people
- ii. **Our greatest opportunity lies in the refusal to “affirm” sin in our own lives or in the culture.**

4. The Drive for Affirmation

a. From the LGBTQ community

- i. Sue Hennessey (News-Herald November 10, 2018, p. B3)
 - (1) PFLAG (Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays)
 - (2) Mission: *Our mission is to build on a foundation of loving families united with LGBTQ people and allies who support one another, and to educate ourselves and our communities to speak up as advocates until all hearts and minds respect, value, and affirm LGBTQ people.*
- ii. Not just respect and value but affirmation
 - (1) Affirm
 - (a) validate, confirm
 - (b) to state positively
 - (c) to assert something as valid or confirmed
 - (d) affirm implies conviction based on evidence, experience, or faith.
 - (2) We are being asked to state with conviction and acceptance that a behavior God has rejected is acceptable, normal, and right for some people.

b. Problem:

- i. to affirm people in their sin is to affirm as normal and acceptable a condition of the heart and soul that God will judge with eternal justice.
 - (1) **Ezekiel 18:4 (ESV) Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die.**
 - (2) Sin, by definition, is any attitude or action that denies the sovereignty of God over all things.
 - (a) **1 Corinthians 11:12b (ESV) And all things are from God.**
 - (b) Any soul that denies God's rightful place as moral standard sins and is subject to death.
 - (c) To affirm people in their sin is not merely surrender them to death but to actively blind them from the dreadful warning the gospel of Jesus provides
 - (3) To affirm anyone in their sin is to consign them to hell with a smile and pat on the back
 - (a) Would you affirm a thief in theft?

- (b) Would you affirm a murderer in murder?
- (c) Would you affirm an adulterer in unfaithfulness?
- (4) The world affirms sin as normal and acceptable and often desirable all the while disguising the agony of eternal judgment under the pretense of personal pleasure.
 - (a) **Revelation 21:7-8 (ESV)** ⁷ *The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.* ⁸ *But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”*
 - (b) **Revelation 21:27 (ESV)** *But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s book of life.*
- (5) **In baptism you commit to being a living message of the danger of sin and the hope we have in Jesus Christ.**

ii. **To affirm anyone in their sin is to affirm the non-existence of the God of the Bible, the Creator, and the Savior Jesus Christ, and therefore to deny your very own faith and hope of eternal life in Christ.**

- (1) Affirm? - If a person may be validated as being right and proper in their sin, then God must be wrong to condemn as sin what is not sinful
- (2) Affirm? - In fact, there is no sin because there is no standard of right and wrong beyond the majority opinion in the moment
- (3) Affirm? - Therefore, in essence, there is no absolute moral authority
- (4) Affirm? - Therefore, by definition, there is no god, no sin, and no need for a savior, and this no need for Christ

iii. **To affirm anyone in their sin is to unveil our own spiritual idolatry and need for repentance**

- (1) to affirm sin in any form and by any means is to enter into friendship with the world and enmity with God
- (2) to affirm in our own lives or the lives of others anything God calls sin
 - (a) is to place our own will in a place of superiority over God’s will;
 - (b) it is a return to the garden and the serpent in the tree; it is idolatry;
 - (c) it is sin and its consequences is death
- (3) **James 4:4 (ESV)** *You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.*
- (4) The enemies of God never fare well in the end.

- (5) **In baptism you commit to resisting sin with your life, as Jesus did, not affirming sin as the Devil does.**

5. Genuine, Faithful Affirmation

- a. Genuine Christians affirm the glory of God over all things.**
- i. God's truthful self-revelation is the moral standard for all creation.
 - ii. God is God alone and He does not give His glory to another.
- b. Genuine Christians affirm the goodness of God toward all things.**
- i. Compassion, mercy, patience, rightness, perfection, justice are all attributes of God through which He manifests His goodness.
 - ii. God's attitude toward all creation is good, since His essential nature is good.
 - iii. What God says is true of us is good, and it is good that He reveals our sins and calls us to new life in Him
- c. Genuine Christians affirm the grace of God toward some things.**
- i. Everyone who calls on the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins and for the empowerment of a new life will be saved.
 - ii. God's grace is freely and readily available to all whom come to Him in faith.
 - iii. Christians, your call to faith was, and remains, a call to commitment to the unswerving affirmation of God's glory, goodness, and grace in the world, and you cannot sacrifice or abandon one and hope to proclaim the others.

6. Christians you cannot avoid sin in the world, but you must avoid sin in yourself.

- a. The Message to Christians**
- i. Christians you cannot avoid sin in the world but you must avoid affirming sin in the world.
 - ii. If you do not avoid affirmation of sin you send the message that neither your faith, nor the One in Whom you have faith really matters and you risk becoming not a disciple of Jesus but a minion of hell.
 - iii. **You cannot avoid sin in the world but you must avoid affirming the world in its sin.**
- b. Your baptism was your commitment to God's agenda for your life and for the world.**