

One Church.

In Dialogue with the Bride of Christ

Week 1: Anglican (with John Bowen)

COMMUNITY IN UNITY – One Baptism

Ephesians 4:3-6

ANGLICANS – People of the Book(s)

History...

Theology...

Structure...

Style...

A DIFFERENT TAKE ON – Baptism

In favour of Infant baptism...

- Dominant theology throughout Church history.
- Old Covenant includes children.
- Jesus blesses children. **Mark 10:14-16**
- Peter says baptism is "for you and your children". **Acts 2:38-39**
- Households are baptized. **Acts 11:13-14; 16:14-15, 31-34; 18:8; 1 Corinthians 1:16**
- Children are "sanctified" by believing parents. **1 Corinthians 7:14**
- Baptism replaces circumcision. **Colossians 2:11-12**

In favour of believer's baptism...

- We no longer enter God's covenant through birth/genetics. **Galatians 3:6-9**
- We enter the New Covenant through faith, expressed through baptism. **Mark 1:5; John 4:1-2; Acts 8:12, 35-38; 10:44-48**

LOOK TO THE BOOK – Isaiah 43:18-21

When Israel is reluctant to follow his lead, God...

1. Reminds them of who he is.
2. Speaks about the past – in two opposite ways!
3. Speaks about the present.
4. Speaks about the future.

TAKE OUT – I'll Have One Gospel to Go Please

NEXT WEEK... Brethren in Christ (with Darrell Winger)

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS

Warming Up...

1. What might be some of the benefits of a series like One Church for The Meeting House? What are you most looking forward to?
2. What is your pre-Meeting House spiritual/religious background? What do you appreciate most about your other church experiences?

Look to the Book...

3. Read **Isaiah 43:16-28**. A) What verse or idea stands out to you the most? Why? B) God seems to say "remember the past" in **v. 16** and then "forget the past" in **v. 18**. What are some ways remembering the past is good/bad? Can you think of a recent example where you have remembered the past in a healthy and/or unhealthy way? Which verse do you usually need to pay closer attention to (16 or 18)? C) God works to help Israel embrace the changes in how he is going to relate to them. Even though God doesn't change, his ways with us often do. What are some other significant changes in how God relates to his people recorded in Scripture? D) Notice that God's love is *self-giving* but not *self-negating*, *self-sacrificing* but not *self-effacing* (**vv. 7, 21, 25**). Divine love is not an others-only virtue that cares nothing for self, but a kind of giving that gets, a generosity that works for the good of everyone involved, including the giver (also see **Ephesians 1:3-6**). This love always creates a win-win opportunity, for the lover and the beloved. Likewise, when we love others with Christ-like love, we also benefit. Talk about examples in your life when you have done the hard work of loving someone in a difficult situation, and the effect it had on you. E) In light of 3-D, how would you respond to someone who says, "If you are rewarded with salvation for loving Jesus, then it really isn't love, but just selfishness."

The Great Debate...

4. Divide into two groups to debate the issue: Should Christian baptism be given to infants? Take 5 minutes to debate. Then switch positions for another 5 minutes!

So What?...

5. Have you been baptized as a sign of your own faith in Christ? If so, talk about its value to you. If not, why not?
6. What does it look like to live fully surrendered to God in a wealthy, materialistic society? Visit themeetinghouse.ca/splash to learn more.

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Notes are available online at themeetinghouse.ca/teaching