

Text: Mt 28.19-20

Since this service is a baptismal service, I want to prepare with a brief message on what the Great Commission tells us about baptism.

Matthew 28.19-20 “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

I. The two-step process of disciple making

- A. The command is “make disciples”
- B. The first step is baptizing them
 - 1. Presupposes faith
 - 2. Baptism is the sign of conversion (not the cause) “baptizing **them**” – they are already disciples when baptized
- C. The second step is instructing them – a never ending process

II. The meaning of the first step, baptism

- A. In the name: under the authority (we are commissioned by God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit)
- B. In the name: identification – the disciple publicly declares his unity with the triune God
- C. In the name: submission – the disciple commits himself in an *act* of obedience to a *life* of obedience (more in next point)
- D. In the name: testimony of faith
 - 1. Faith in God
 - 2. Symbolized in surrender to the baptizer (complete dependence)
 - 3. Symbolized by rising from the waters in expectation of the new life and the eternal life to come

III. The expectation after taking the step of obedience

- A. Teaching: a life-time process (as mentioned)

B. Obedience: observing the commands of Christ is a “do it his way” Christianity (not “do it yourself”)

C. Assurance: the constant presence of Christ “to cheer and to guide”

Conclusion:

Much more can be said about baptism and the Christian testimony, but I think the things we have said need to be said again and again.

We need to be committed to personal faith in Christ for our salvation, followed by a life-time of obedience to Christ for our sanctification.