

Old Landmarkism – What is it?

Chapter 9 – 30 Minutes

“Truth is never contradictory nor inconsistent with itself.” ---Tombe
Assertion of Truth by Bro Graves: Baptist Churches have No right to be inconsistent nor to favor a practice unwarranted by the Word of God.

The Evils of Intercommunion among Baptists

1. Baptist Churches practicing intercommunion don't have their own communion.
 - They have members, conferences, discipline practiced among themselves.
 - Though they have all these, the Church communion is Not their own.
2. Baptist Churches practicing intercommunion have No absolute guardianship.
 - They can guard against their own members so as Not to defile the feast.
 - They have no such ability if they invite members of sister Churches.
3. They can only purge the feast among their own members.
 - When inviting members of sister Churches they open themselves up to leaven.
 - Illustrations: 2 are provided to show how excluded members could end up sitting right back at the table of the Church who excluded them by intercommunion.
4. True Baptist Churches refuse baptisms administered by other denominations.
 - Intercommunion opens the tables of Churches to loose practices of some Baptists
 - Illustrations: 2 are provided to show how alien immersions could reach table.
 - Consistency: It is only through closed communion the table can be kept safe.

The Evils of Denominational Communion – Evangelical Churches

1. It opens the door to ministerial impostors
 - Speaking of preachers traveling, holding revivals and baptizing but unknown
 - Intercommunion allows such to have access to the table: needs to be checked
2. Denominational Communion can only be sustained at the expense of peace.
 - It has caused division in Churches and Associations because it departs from truth
3. Many have moved from home Church area and never moved their membership
 - Intercommunion allows such to have the privilege of membership at sister church
 - Ceasing the practice would require such to move their members to gain privilege
4. Four of five, if Not nine of ten councils in 25 years have been called to settle issues from the practice of Denominational Communion.
 - This means the vast amount of difficulty in Church life could be settled by this.
5. The practice of Denominational Communion causes public prejudice.
 - This is above and beyond anything said about Church discipline.
6. Thousands of members are lost each year by the practice of Denomin Communion
 - They see those from other Baptists at our tables but other saved people refused
 - This appearance of inconsistency would be avoided if all practiced strict Communion
7. Denominational Communion caused Churches to move towards Open Communion
 - When it is witnessed that others “at all” are invited to the table, why Not “all”?
 - In 1881, Bro Graves witnessed movement towards Open Communion.

Side Note: Pulpit Affiliation Leads Towards Open Communion

- Our Churches see them in our pulpits, why not welcome them to our table?

Comments of Brother Poindexter of Virginia

- Baptists, if they long maintain their denominational existence, must stand squarely upon the principles set forth as “Old Landmarkism”.
- Ecclesiastical liberalism leads towards Open Communion which would “obliterate every vestige of Bible ecclesiasticism (true Church Practice) from the earth.”

Comments of Brother J.P. Boyce, first president of SBC Theological Seminary

- In 1876, from the floor of the Mississippi Baptist State Convention, he declared that he was a Landmark Baptist.
- In 1879 he baptized a preacher who had been received on Methodist baptism
- This was Bro Weaver who was pastoring a Baptist Church in Louisville, KY

Questions

IC = Intercommunion

DC = Denominational Communion

1. Why do Churches practicing IC fail to have their own communion?
2. Why do Churches practicing IC fail to have complete guardianship of table?
3. How does IC allow excluded members to communion at excluding Church?
4. How could alien immersion end up at the table through IC?
5. What communion practice has caused divisions in Churches / Associations?
6. Why has DC caused public prejudice?
7. What has DC caused Churches to move towards in the way of communion?
8. How does pulpit affiliation impact the view of members towards communion?
9. According to Brother Poindexter, what do Churches need to do to maintain their denominational existence?
10. How did Brother J.P. Boyce demonstrate that he was a Landmark Baptist?