

Raising Babes in Christ

INTRODUCTION

- A. Many of those who are baptized into Christ, quickly fall away.
 - 1. Some estimate that as many as 40 to 50% of those who are baptized fall away within five years.
 - 2. We need to do something to help these converts remain faithful.
- B. Christianity is a total change in life.
 - 1. The Bible teaches this.
 - a. Rom. 6:4.
 - b. 2 Cor. 5:17.
 - c. Eph. 4:24.
 - 2. Change never comes easily.
- C. Physical babies need help maturing.
 - 1. Just as that is true, it is also true that spiritual babes need help maturing.
 - 2. How can we help the new Christian?

WE CAN LOVE THE NEW CHRISTIAN

- A. Christians are commanded to love one another.
 - 1. We are to love the way Jesus loved (Jn. 13:34-35).
 - 2. We are to increase and abound in love for one another (1 Thess. 3:12).
 - 3. We are to “let brotherly love continue” (Heb. 13:1).
- B. Brotherly loves means we are to be patient.
 - 1. One mark of true love is patience (1 Cor. 13:4).
 - 2. We need to remember that change takes time.
 - a. Apollos was teaching the way of the Lord, but he only knew the baptism of John (Acts 18:24-25).
 - b. Priscilla and Aquilla explained to him more accurately the way of the Lord (Acts 18:26).
 - c. Priscilla and Aquilla could have been harsh.
 - 1) Yet, they were patient.
 - 2) Although they were patient, they still stood for the truth.
- C. Brotherly love means that we accept the new Christian.
 - 1. There is no place for not being friendly and not accepting him into certain groups.
 - a. The first converts accepted one another (Acts 2:42-47).
 - 1) They fellowshiped with one another—they did things together.
 - 2) They were together, united.
 - 3) They ate together—which in that day was a close sign of fellowship.
 - b. After Paul’s conversion, the Christians at Jerusalem didn’t believe he was a disciple (Acts 9:26).
 - 1) Yet, Barnabas, whose name means “encouragement,” accepted him (Acts 9:27).
 - 2) We need people like Barnabas!
 - 2. Shall we accept our new brothers & sisters?

WE NEED TO TEACH THE NEW CHRISTIAN

- A. Jesus instructed us to teach new converts to keep all that he had commanded (Mt. 28:19).
- B. New converts desperately need to learn Scripture.
 - 1. They are to desire the pure milk of the word that they may grow thereby (1 Pet. 2:2).
 - 2. They are to increase in the knowledge of God (Col. 1:10).
- C. We are to be teachers (Heb. 5:12).
 - 1. We need to be able to answer the questions a new convert has.

2. When we hear the new convert make a mistake, each of us needs to be able to take him asked & explain the way of the Lord more accurately.

WE NEED TO HELP THEM WITH SIN

- A. New converts are going to have difficulty giving up sin.
 1. We need to understand that for them—just like us before our conversion—sin has been a way of life.
 2. Habits never break easily.
 - a. We have difficulty giving up overeating, giving up smoking, etc.
 - b. One man said, “Bad habits are like comfortable beds: easy to get into, but hard to get out of.”
 - c. The new convert is going to have difficulty giving up sin, for it has been his habit.
- B. We are to restore the one overtaken in a trespass and bear his burdens (Gal. 6:1-2).
- C. We need to let him know what to do when he sins.
 1. We know that they are to repent & pray (Acts 8:22).
 2. Yet, the new Christian doesn't yet know that.

WE NEED TO MAKE FRIENDS

- A. Friendship is a powerful influence.
 1. People act like their friends—“Birds of a feather flock together.”
 2. “Evil company corrupts good habits” (1 Cor. 15:33).
- B. New Christians are going to lose friends, and we need to befriend them.
- C. Part of our friendship includes setting a good example they can follow.
 1. 1 Tim. 4:12.
 2. Tit. 2:7.
 3. Although these passages were written to young evangelists, there is a powerful principle here—set the believers an example.

WE NEED TO PUT THEM TO WORK

- A. Those Christians who have a task to fulfill are much more likely to be faithful.
 1. New converts who are put to work have a purpose—the church needs them.
 2. We must, therefore, put new Christians to work.
- B. There is no excuse for a lazy Christian.
 1. God planned that good works should be our way of life (Eph. 2:10).
 2. Christians should be careful to maintain good works (Tit. 3:8).
 3. We are to encourage one another to go good works (Heb. 10:24).
- C. We need to be working, and we need to be helping new converts find their talents.

CONCLUSION

- A. New converts need much love and attention.
- B. Our own salvation needs much love & attention.
 1. We need to work out our own salvation (Phil. 2:12).
 2. Do you need to work out your own salvation?