

# Denominational Doctrines – Part 6

## Methodist Doctrines

### Introduction:

- A. Methodists teach most the doctrines common to Protestants that we have already noticed.
  - 1. Faith only
  - 2. Instrumental Music
  - 3. Lord's Supper and Finances
  - 4. Social Gospel
- B. There are some doctrines that Methodists are known for:

### Discussion:

#### **I. The Nature of Baptism**

- A. Baptism by sprinkling, pouring, or immersion.
  - 1. Baptism is immersion by definition – from Greek, baptizo.
  - 2. Baptism is immersion by description
    - a. A washing (Acts 22:16)
    - b. A burial (Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12)
    - c. A planting (Rom. 6:5)
    - d. A resurrection (Col. 2:12)
  - 3. Baptism is immersion by demonstration (Acts 8:36-39; John 3:23)
- B. Baptism is in the room of circumcision.
  - 1. If so, only male would be baptized.
  - 2. O.T. Circumcision was type circumcision of the heart - not baptism (Rom. 2:29; Col 2:11-13)

#### **II. The Subject of Baptism**

- A. In the New Testament only believers were baptized. (Mark 16:16; Acts 8:37, 18:8)
- B. Methodists baptize infants – incapable of meeting any of baptism's prerequisites.
  - 1. Practice is rooted in total depravity.
  - 2. Practice today is more of a “dedication” ceremony.

#### **III. The Nature of the Church**

- A. Methodists teach that the church is made of many branches of which Methodists are one.
  - 1. Based on a perversion of John 15:1-6.
  - 2. If denominations are branches, what is the church(?) represented by the vine?
- B. Methodists promote the ecumenical concept of the church (1972 Disciple p. 73)

#### **IV. The Organization of the Church**

- A. Methodists have a complex system of conferences and bishops that govern the church.
  - 1. Church property is usually owned by a conference.
  - 2. Church “pastors” are selected, moved, assigned, etc. by conferences and bishops.
- B. The organization of the New Testament church was much simpler (cf. Phil. 1:1)
  - 1. Bishop and pastor were same office (Acts 20:17, 28; 1 Pet. 1:5).
  - 2. All organization was local – each local congregation independent (Acts 14:23).
  - 3. Local churches were entities within themselves, not a part of a larger organization.

### Conclusion:

- A. Method doctrine is quite fluid, changes with times.
- B. We need to go back to Bible, before there was a Methodist church.