

Loving God & Loving Others Biblically



Loving God & Loving Others
through
Biblical Meditation



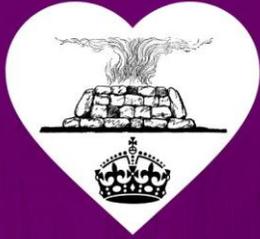
Loving God & Loving Others
through
Biblical Prayer



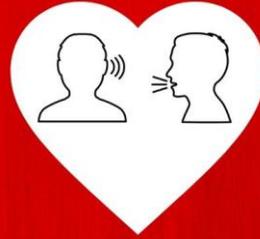
Loving God & Loving Others
through
Biblical Discernment



Loving God & Loving Others
through
Biblical Worship



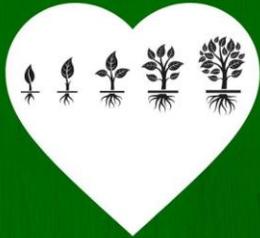
Loving God & Loving Others
through
Biblical Communication



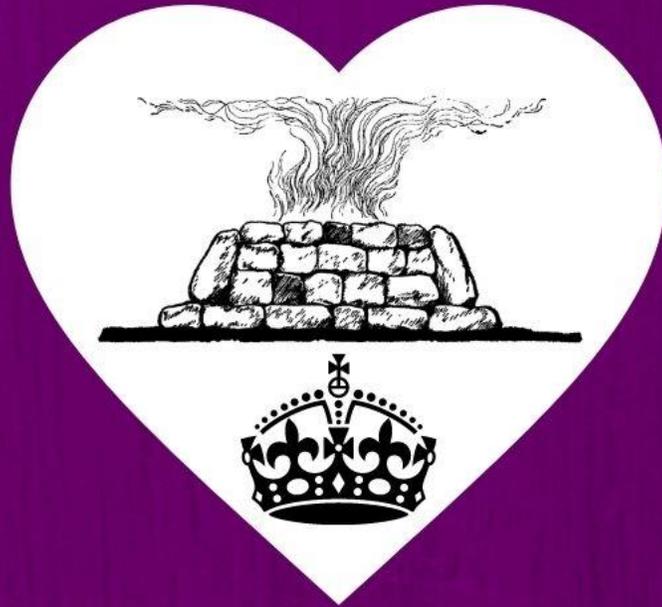
Loving God & Loving Others
through
Biblical Generosity



Loving God & Loving Others
through
Biblical Discipleship



Loving God & Loving Others through Biblical Worship



The Importance of Baptism
Matthew 28:18-20

Matthew 28:18-20

- Baptism is included in Jesus Christ's **great command** (or **commission**) for His Church to *“make disciples of all nations.”*
- Baptism highlights the **divine authority** of Jesus Christ.
- Baptism is integral to the **teaching ministry** of Jesus Christ's Church.

4 Aspects of Baptism

1. The **Model** for Baptism
2. The **Mandate** for Baptism
3. The **Meaning** (or Message) of Baptism
4. The **Mode** of Baptism

An Account of Believer's Baptism

- Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

1. The Model for Baptism

(Matthew 3:13-17)

- Of course, Jesus Christ did not need to be baptized since He is God!
- However, through His baptism, Jesus Christ set an example for His Church to follow.

2. The Mandate for Baptism (Acts 2:38-41)

- All people are commanded by God to **repent** of their sin and **receive** His gift of salvation through Jesus Christ.
- **After** true repentance (salvation) has come, Christians (“believers”) are commanded to keep obeying God through water baptism.

3. The Meaning of Baptism

- Prerequisites:
 - Salvation through faith in Jesus Christ
 - Desire to pursue biblical holiness

3. The Meaning of Baptism

- Baptism **is not...**
 - ...a means of salvation or receiving saving grace.
 - ...a sign of superior spirituality.
 - ...an opportunity to boast or judge others.
 - ...a requirement to go to Heaven.
(Remember the thief on the cross!)

3. The Meaning of Baptism

- Baptism **is...**
 - ...a primary step of obedience for a Christian (not an unbeliever).
 - ...a public pledge to Christ-like living.

3. The Meaning of Baptism

- Baptism **is...**

...a call to the Church to engage in prayer and encouragement for a brother or sister in Christ's spiritual growth.

...a fulfilling of the biblical model and mandate for baptism. (Matthew 28:19)

3. The Meaning of Baptism

- Baptism **is:**

...a time of united rejoicing over God's grace in the life of His Church.

4. The Mode of Baptism

- Immersion (not sprinkling or pouring)
 - *“Baptizo” – “to submerge, to baptize”*
- Immersion symbolizes the Gospel’s clear message (**1 Corinthians 15:3-4**).
 - *Death of Christ (death to sin’s power)*
 - *Burial of Christ (death to sin’s control)*
 - **Resurrection of Christ** *(newness of life)*

An Account of Believer's Baptism (*Acts 8:26-39*)

- Philip was obedient to God's calling.
- Philip shared the Gospel of Jesus.
- The Gospel was believed in faith.
- The new Christian was baptized (by immersion) after salvation was received.
- The new Christian continued on his way rejoicing.

So what's the big deal about baptism?

- Baptism follows Jesus Christ's **example**.
- Baptism obeys the Word of God's **commands**.
- Baptism is the primary step of **obedience** for a Christian.
- Baptism is a **public** pledge to live for Christ.
- Baptism is an **encouragement** to the Church.

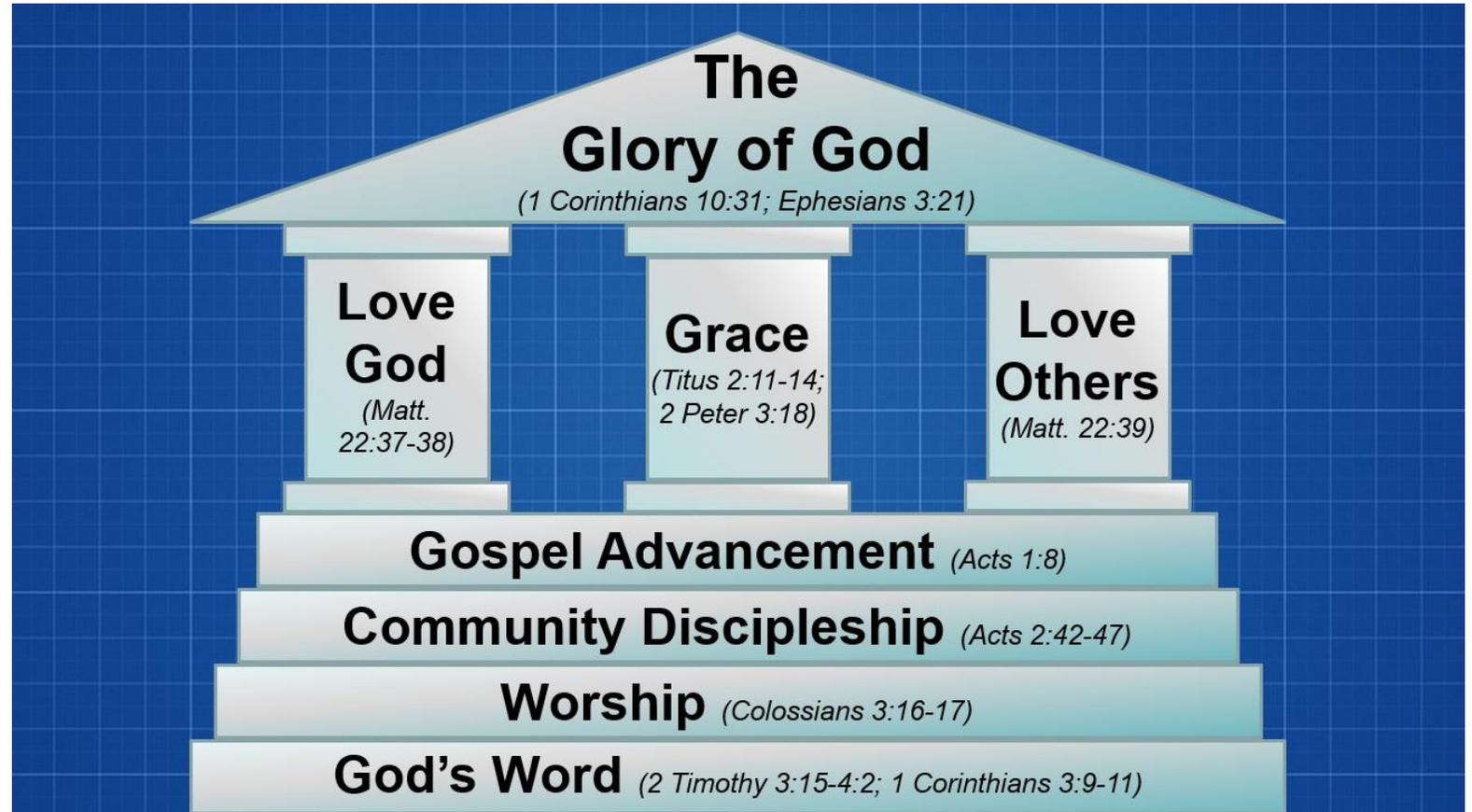
THREE OBSERVATIONS

Baptism is designed by God...

1. ...to **impact** Christians with the *power* of Christ's Gospel.
2. ...to **influence** Christians towards *public*, Christ-like living.
3. ...to **inspire** Christians to pursue community ("one another") *discipleship*.

Purposes of Baptism

- God's glory
- Obeying Christ's commands
- Community discipleship
- Public witness for Christ



BIG IDEA:

**Baptism is important
because it magnifies
the glory of
Jesus Christ's Gospel.**

FOUR QUESTIONS

1. Have you been **biblically** baptized as a Christian?

FOUR QUESTIONS

2. If you are a Christian, and you have not been biblically baptized, what is holding you back from **obeying** Christ's command?
- *Fear? ("It feels awkward.")*
 - *Confusion? ("I don't understand.")*
 - *Confession? ("I wasn't saved!")*

BIG IDEA:

**Baptism is important
because it magnifies
the glory of
Jesus Christ's Gospel.**

***(So, baptism isn't really about
you, but about God's glory!)***

FOUR QUESTIONS

2. If you are a Christian, and you have not been biblically baptized, what is holding you back from **obeying** Christ's command?
 - *Fear? ("It feels awkward.")*
 - *Confusion? ("I don't understand.")*
 - *Confession? ("I wasn't saved!")*

FOUR QUESTIONS

3. If you have been biblically baptized, are you being faithful in **fulfilling** your public commitment to live for Jesus Christ as His disciple?

FOUR QUESTIONS

4. If you have been biblically baptized, how are you **encouraging** your brothers and sisters in Christ and **ministering** to them?

BIG IDEA:

**Baptism is important
because it magnifies
the glory of
Jesus Christ's Gospel.**