

Mark 9:38-41

Narrow Exclusiveness

Introduction:

Jesus is stating in this context, that His disciples must guard against building walls between other believers. We know the differences among various denominations, Lutheran, Anglican, Baptist, Methodist, and Presbyterian. But we also know there are many common beliefs about the gospel, the person and work of Christ. So often Reformed Baptist and Reformed Presbyterians meet for preaching and teaching conferences. The private discussion sometimes comes up regarding the question of Baptism. Why do Presbyterians baptize babies? And why do Baptist, baptize only believing young people and adults? (It's not my purpose to unfold both positions in this sermon) Only to say that despite their differences we can say that they both can't be right. However, to be intolerant on this issue would be entirely wrong if not foolishness. Certainly, the mode and manner of baptism is not crucial. The primary issue is the doctrine of salvation. Justification by faith alone through the work of Christ alone. These are the non-negotiable issues, and this is where the Christian church should remain firm. The doctrines of grace are essential to the fellowship of the saints.

I. Those Against Us – 38-39

A. The authority of the apostles and others – “in My Name”

1. Our Teacher – John 13:13
2. Red flags go up for the apostles!

B. Beware of false teachers – Turn to: Acts 19:13-17

1. “In Christ’s Name” is not a magical formula
2. There are many examples when the apostles were misguided – John 13:23; 19:26; 18:15-18; 20:23-29

II. Those for Us – 40-41

A. Jesus objects to the apostles view on miracle workers

1. We should never presume that the individual is in control
2. Effectual prayer – Jam. 5:16

B. Jesus states it clearly, you can't ride the fence

1. Many will come in Jesus' name, but Jesus never knew them – Matt. 7:22
2. The self-righteous God hates

C. Jesus finishes His answer – v.41

1. A cup of cold water – Matt. 10:42
2. It's not the value of the water but the prompting of the Holy Spirit – **Matt. 25:34-46 Turn and Read**; Gal. 5:22
3. The Holy Spirit is positive proof that we belong to Christ – Rom. 8:9; I Cor. 3:23; I Cor. 6:19-20)