

Methodist Church

“Methodist conservatives”

- Where to find information about Methodist Church?
 - Bible?
 - Concordance?
 - Bible encyclopedias?
 - Religious encyclopedias
 - Methodist Discipline
- 1 Th.5:21; 2 Jn.9-11

I. Background

John Wesley

- “Undisputed founder of Wesleyan Methodism” – S-H, 332
- Born: 1703, Lincolnshire, England to Samuel / Susanna
- 1725: ordained priest, Church of Eng.
- 1729: four Oxford students began to spend evenings in weekly readings...

Methodist Discipline refers this as the rise of the united society...

- Sources admit NO Methodist Church before 1729
- 1736: Missionary to Georgia: pastor to English, missionary to Indians
- Impressed with Moravians
- May, 24, 1738: sought out Moravians
 - Read Luther's preface to Romans

Founder of Methodism was not converted in 1729 when he founded it

- Now attributed salvation to 'faith alone'
- McTyeire, bishop of Methodist Episcopal Church – Wesley's journal
- Leading London churches were weak
- Wesley was excluded from preaching in these churches
- Barred from pulpits, he emphasized societies

Wesley preached outside

- Charles and John drew great crowds, though objects of insult and abuse.
- Methodist chapel deeds limited powers of trustees.

‘No person shall be allowed to preach, who shall maintain, promulgate, or teach any Doctrine or Practice contrary to what is contained in certain Notes on the NT, commonly reputed to be Notes of the said John Wesley’ –S-H, 354f.

Wesley went

- John traveled 8000 miles annually on horseback.
- In whole life, 250,000 miles.
- Charles wrote songs – 5000+ hymns.

Wesley's church is too late

- 'Methodism began in England...work of John Wesley...' – Rosten, 122
- Mt.16:18, no human founder
 - Lord: Ac.2:36-38, 41-42, 47
- Mt.16:19, no human authority / standard. Ac.2:41-42; 2 Tim.3; 1 Pt.1:25; 4:11; 2 Pt.1:3

I. Background

II. Methodist Discipline

What they confess – Rosten, 127

- Too broad: allows for modernism.
- People can adhere to creed while disbelieving / disobeying much of NT.
 - Assumption: uninspired men express views more clearly than NT?
 - What does NT alone make, Lk.8:11?
 - What does Methodist Disc. make?
- God made autonomous churches.
 - Rosten, 129

I. Background

II. Methodist Discipline

III. Methodist Doctrines

Total Hereditary Depravity

1908 Discipline: 'all men are conceived and born in sin.'

1910 Discipline: 'all men, though fallen in Adam, are born into this world in Christ the Redeemer.'

- Why need infant baptism???
- Discipline, p.4-5: God responsible for unbelievers. Jn.8:24; 2 Pt.3:9; Ro.10:17 (Ac.2)
- Ezk.18; Ro.7:9; Ga.4:4; 1 Jn.3:4

Infant baptism

“...Forasmuch as all men, though fallen in Adam, are born into this world in Christ the Redeemer, heirs of life eternal and subjects of the saving grace of the HS; and that our Savior Christ saith, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not...I beseech you to call upon God the Father through our Lord Jesus Christ, that of his bounteous goodness he will so grant unto this child, now to be baptized...” – Disc., p.304f.

Infant baptism

- If born **in Christ**, how can children come to Him?
- If already **in Christ**, why need baptism (Ga.3:27)?
 - Rosten, 125f.: infants have no faith, cannot repent. Hb.11:6; Lk.13:3.
 - Disc., Art. 756f.: after baptism, infants not member of Methodist Church.
 - Ac.2:47; 1 Co.12:13

Faith only

- Disc. p.5: “We are accounted righteous before God, only for the merit of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, by faith, and not for our own works or deservings; wherefore, that we are justified by **faith only**, is a most wholesome doctrine, and very full of comfort.”
- Ja.2; Mt.7:21-23; Ga.3:26-27

Direct Operation of Holy Spirit and 'Religious Experiences'

- Rosten, 129
- Methodist Disc., Art.8, p.4f.
- Schaff-Herzog, 309:

(Witness of Sp.): "The testimony of the Spirit is an inward impression on the soul of believers, whereby the Spirit of God directly testifies to their spirit that they are the children of God."

Direct Operation of Holy Spirit and 'Religious Experiences'

Ro.8:14-17 –

- 14: does not tell HOW Spirit leads.
 - 1:16-17 does.
 - If led by Spirit will **believe** what He taught, **do** what He says.

Direct Operation of Holy Spirit and 'Religious Experiences'

Ro.8:14-17 –

- 14: does not tell HOW Spirit leads.
- 15: as Gal.4:6

And **because you are sons**, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!”

Direct Operation of Holy Spirit and 'Religious Experiences'

Ro.8:14-17 –

- 14: does not tell HOW Spirit leads.
- 15: as Gal.4:6
- 16: '...WITH' our spirit (not 'TO')
 - Many set aside WORD of Spirit (known to be right) and base salvation on experience and feelings – subjective, Ac.26:9-11.

Direct

Death experiences of atheists valid?

Mother murders children...?

Some ignore Scripture to prove
subjective experience.

- 14: does
- 15: as Gal.4:6
- 16: '...WITH' spirit (not 'TO')
 - Many see side WORD of Spirit (know to be right) and base salvation on experience and feelings – subjective, Ac.26:9-11.

Direct Operation of Holy Spirit and 'Religious Experiences'

Ro.8:14-17 –

- 14: does not tell HOW Spirit leads.
- 15: as Gal.4:6
- 16: '...WITH our spirit' (not 'TO')
 - Court: accused of being a Christian

Meth. Disc.

Faith alone
Experience

Guilty

Ac.2
Word

N.T.

Ac.2
Word

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