A Divisive Ordinance

Baptism is a sign and seal of God’s saving work on our behalf. It signifies and reassures us that through faith in Christ we are united to Christ in His death and resurrection; we are cleansed from our sins; and we are freed from the dominating power of sin. In addition to all of that, baptism is our declaration that we have taken our stand on the side of Christ. Jesus said, “He who is not with Me is against Me” (Matthew 12:30), so standing with Christ in baptism separates us from the world.

**1. Jesus Christ is a divisive Person.**

A. Jesus and His *brothers*

B. Jesus and the *crowds*

C. Jesus and the *leaders*

**2. Baptism is a divisive ordinance.**

Matthew 10:16-25, 32-38

A. A disciple is not above his *Master*

B. A disciple is identified by his *confession*

Romans 10:9-10

C. A disciple confesses Christ in *baptism*

**For Private Meditation or Family Discussion**

1. How did the Lord speak to you through the message? Did He put His finger on any habits or attitudes that you need to change? Did He encourage you regarding some difficulty, move you to undertake some new challenge, or open your heart to some truth you hadn’t seen before?

2. Matthew 10:32-42.

* Why do families sometimes become hostile toward one of their members who becomes a Christian?
* Does loving Jesus more than your family give you a license to neglect your family responsibilities in the name of serving Jesus (1 Timothy 5:8)?

3. Jesus said that the world “hates” Him (John 7:7; 15:18-25). How did the world show its hatred of Him then? How does the world show its hatred of Him now? Do people who think of Jesus as merely a good man actually hate Him?

3. What kind of unity does the Lord produce (Ephesians 4:1-6)? How can we experience this kind of unity with believers who differ with us in some ways?