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
      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.
   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.