



A Conversion Check List

Matthew 28:19-20 -- Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you...

Introduction

1. We often talk about converting people to Christ, but I think we often do not understand fully what that means or entails.
2. It seems we may be in such a rush to baptize them that we forget that they need to be qualified by the process.
3. Do they fully understand what needs to be done preceding baptism and do they fully understand what they are committing themselves to afterward? Hopefully the following checklist will help us produce qualified and fruitful children of God.

A. A Checklist for the Young

- Do they understand what God is asking of them? If they are not aware of their sins then coming in contact with the Lord's blood is either not necessary yet or is a waste of time.

Isaiah 7:16 -- For before the boy will know enough to refuse evil and choose good, the land whose two kings you dread will be forsaken.

Deuteronomy 1:39 -- Moreover, your little ones who you said would become a prey, and your sons, who this day have no knowledge of good or evil, shall enter there, and I will give it to them, and they shall possess it.

- The Kingdom of God is made up of the innocent, and those brought up in the church and receptive are a part of it. Even these are qualified, since many children in this world are already tainted with its evil and have no conscience.

Matthew 18:2-6 -- And He called a child to Himself and set him before them, and said, "Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever receives one such child in My name receives me; but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it is better for him that a heavy millstone be hung around his neck, and that he be drowned in the dept of the sea.

- Children are often enthusiastic as preteens, but they will face the formidable times of adolescence when their friends at school (or even in the church) will influence them to the world. This is a hard call, since you know they may love the Lord at this age and you do not want to overlook the salvation of their soul if it is ready, but if too premature it may cause more harm than good.

2 Peter 2:20 -- For if after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and are overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first.

- Have they counted the cost? Will they be obedient to their parents, loving to their siblings, and put the church before schoolwork?

B. A Checklist for Prospects

- Do they truly believe in God?

Hebrews 11:6 -- And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

- Do they truly believe that Jesus is the Son of God? (Confession)

1 John 4:2 -- By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God.

- Do they believe the Bible is the Word of God (only) and they are amenable to it?
1 Corinthians 4:6 -- ...that in us you may learn not to exceed what is written, in order that no one of you might become arrogant in behalf of one against the other.
- Are they ready to repent (Convicted of sins and understand need to change)
Romans 6:23 -- The wages of sin is death...
Romans 3:23 -- All have sinned.
Ephesians 4:24 -- And put on the new self which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.
- Understand imperative of baptism? (Problem if willing to put off, or lack courage)
Acts 8:36 -- ..."Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?"
Acts 16:33 -- And he took them that very hour of the night... and immediately he was baptized, he and all his house.
- Do they understand their responsibilities to the church (His body)?
1 Corinthians 12:13 -- For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body...
Ephesians 4:15-16 -- But speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.
- Do they understand they need to be zealous for good works?
Titus 2:13-14 -- Looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus; who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

C. A Checklist for the Process

- Pray for the acceptance of the one's soul by God and be cleansed.
Luke 18:1 -- Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart.
- You are committing them into a personal relationship with their God. Mention it.
Matthew 28:19 -- Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit...
- The Scriptures teach the total immersion of the body as if it were a burial.
Romans 6:4 -- Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father. So we too might walk in newness of life.
Colossians 2:12 -- Having been buried [planted] with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

D. A Checklist for the Future

- Commitment to kingdom!
Matthew 6:33 -- But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you.
- Add to faith!
2 Peter 1:5ff -- Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in our faith supply moral excellence, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, love. For if these qualities are yours and increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful...
- Grow in grace and knowledge!
2 Peter 3:18 -- But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.