Wednesday, September 25, 2019

NOBA Pastors' Meeting

Baptism and Belonging, Part 1: Being Baptist

- The Meaning of Baptism
  - What does Baptism symbolize? Is Baptism merely a symbol, or does it have some effect on the baptized and the congregation?
  - Baptism is commanded in the great commission and elsewhere. Assuming his commands are not baseless or random, why did Christ desire his followers to be baptized?
  - How does the ritual nature of baptism effect the meaning of the act?
  - In what way does baptism relate to the covenanted children of God in the Old Testament? In circumcision, or birth,—or Noah's flood (see 1 Pet. 4)?
- Baptism and Membership
  - Are the mode and time of baptism primary or secondary theological issues? If they are primary issues, then are those who are baptized in the wrong mode or time therefore unregenerate? If they are secondary issues, then are we imitating Christ by excluding those whom he has included?
  - If a church allows members baptized in another mode or timing, should they be removed from our fellowship as an association?
  - Should churches immediately baptize those who profess faith, or should baptism come at the end of an interview, or an initial discipleship process?
- Concerning Re-baptism
  - Is re-baptizing a person of another denomination a rejection of the meaning and efficacy of baptism in that denomination?
  - Should we re-baptize those who walk away from faith, or change denominations, and return at a later point?
  - If a believer affirms the right mode/timing, yet opposes re-baptism, would he be allowed to join your church as a member?