**Anabaptist Theology and You**

Theology, the study of God and His nature, means very little if we don’t take time to look at the practical implications of this study. In this assignment, you will take time to reflect and study what we have learned about traditional Anabaptist beliefs, and you will lay out your own beliefs on these issues.

You will need to find Biblical references for both the Anabaptist beliefs as well as your own.

For each of the topics presented, you must explain whether you agree or disagree to the statement and to what extent. Your answer should include at least 2 Biblical references for support.

**Your Task:**

1. Read the information presented and find at least 2 Scriptural references to support what is presented.
2. Describe whether or not you agree or disagree with the Anabaptist teachings on each issue and to what extent. Provide at least 2 Scriptural supports for your answer.
3. You must provide one topic of your choice at the end. This assignment is providing you the opportunity to share what you believe. If this is the case, what topic is not included that needs to be included in a discussion of what you believe about God and living the life He intended you to live? Provide at least 2 Scriptural references to support your belief on the topic of your choice.

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| Required Elements | All of the topics have a response and the response shows the student exhausted their understanding of the topic and their belief about it. | All of the topics have a response and the response shows the student presented their understanding of the topic and their belief about it. | All of the topics have a response. | Some of the topics have a response. |
| Your Topic | A topic of your choosing has been including. It is exhaustive and includes Scripture references. | A topic of your choice is included and has Scriptural support. | A topic of your choice is included. | A topic of your choice was started. |
| Scriptural Support | All of the topics have at least 2 Scriptural supports. | All of the topics have some Scriptural support. | Most of the topics have Scriptural support. | Some of the topics have Scriptural support. |

**The Bible**

While not worshipping the Bible itself, which would be bibliolatry, Anabaptists accept “the Scriptures as the authoritative Word of God, and through the Holy Spirit…the infallible guide to lead men to faith in Christ and to guide them in the life of Christian discipleship.” Anabaptists insist that Christians must be guided by the Word, inspired by the Spirit within the community illumined by the Spirit.

Since Christ is God’s supreme revelation, Anabaptists make a clear functional distinction between the equally inspired Old and New Testaments. We see both an old and new covenant. We read the Old from the perspective of the New and see the New as the fulfillment of the Old. The Old Testament should be interpreted in light of God’s final revelation in Jesus Christ, as recorded in the New Testament. Anabaptist ethics are learned first from Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount, then the Gospels, the rest of the New Testament, and the entire Bible.

Biblical References:

**Your Turn:**

**Church Discipline**

The public ordinance of baptism was important because it was a sign to the congregation that new believers bound themselves to church discipline.

 “It is evident that a congregation or church cannot continue in the salutary doctrine and in a blameless and pious life without the proper use of discipline. Even as a city without a wall and gates, or a field without an enclosure or fence, or a house without walls and doors, so is also a church without the true apostolic exclusion. For it would be open to all deceiving spirits, all godless scorners and haughty despisers, all idolatrous and insolent transgressors, yes to all lewd debauchers and adulterers, as is the case with all the great sects of the world. In my opinion it is a vital characteristic, an honor and a means of prosperity for a true church to practice with Christian discretion the true apostolic exclusion and to observe it carefully with vigilant love according to the teaching of the holy divine Scriptures.”Menno Simons

Biblical References:

**Your Turn:**

**Sacraments**

Communion

The bodily presence of Christ is not found in the bread and wine presented at communion. The bread and wine represent the blood and body of Christ and are taken to remind believers about the sacrifice of Christ. The Lord’s Supper is a memorial to be celebrated by baptized and disciplined believers.

 “The supper is a public sign…of the love in which one brother obligates himself to another before the congregation that just as they now break and eat the bread with each other and share and drink the cup, likewise they wish now to sacrifice and shed their body and blood for one another.” Balthasar Hubmaier

Baptism

Baptism does not convey salvation, it is an outward sign of an internal commitment. Baptism binds a believer to a church and the discipline of that church.

Biblical References:

**Your Turn**

**Pacifism**

Anabaptists believe that the peace position is neither optional, marginal, nor related mainly to the military. On the basis of Scripture, Anabaptists renounce violence in human relationships. We see peace and reconciliation—the way of love—as being at the heart of the Christian gospel. God gave his followers this ethic not as a point to ponder, but as a command to obey. It was costly for Jesus and it may also be costly for his followers. The way of peace is a way of life.

Biblical References:

**Your Turn:**

**Truth-Telling**

Anabaptists agreed that Christians should be truth-tellers, whose yes means yes and no means no, regardless of the civil consequences. This idea was in complete harmony with Anabaptist insistence on spiritual integrity. Born again believers were supposed to not only tell the truth, but live the truth.

“All who are planted into the body of the church through faith in Christ, will not swear as the children of the world do. Rather they confess and live the truth without additions, with a pure heart.”

Hans Marquart

Biblical References:

**Your Turn:**

**Economic Sharing**

In several Anabaptist communities economic sharing took the form of a community of goods, where members gave up all claims to property. But even in the more numerous non-communal Anabaptist groups there was a “common purse” kept to help the needy.

“Whoever has a true faith will share with a needy member and not keep anything as personal property.”

Barbli

Biblical References:

**Your Turn:**