

TOUCH

(Laying on of Hands)

INTRODUCTION

So let us stop going over the basic teachings about Christ again and again. Let us go on instead and become mature in our understanding. Surely we don't need to start again with the fundamental importance of repenting from evil deeds and placing our faith in God. You don't need further instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. And so, God willing, we will move forward to further understanding. Hebrews 6:1-3 (NLT)

THEME: You can't attain maturity until you retain the elementary.

I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes... Psalm 101:3 (KJV)

Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law. Psalm 119:18

The laying on of hands is an expression of God's active participation in daily life.

HANDS IN SERVICE

Touch connects a person to a path.

*"May the God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked faithfully, the God who has been my shepherd all my life to this day, the Angel who has delivered me from all harm—**may he bless these boys.**" Genesis 48:15-16*

*They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and **laid their hands on them.** Acts 6:6*

"Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Acts 13:2

*So after they had fasted and prayed, they **placed their hands on them** and sent them off. Acts 13:3*

Touch connects people to God's power.

"Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean." Matthew 8:2

Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," He said. "Be clean!" Matthew 8:3

Touch connects people to care.

People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them. Mark 10:13-16

CONCLUSION



MEMORIZE

So let us stop going over the basic teachings about Christ again and again. Let us go on instead and become mature in our understanding. Surely we don't need to start again with the fundamental importance of repenting from evil deeds and placing our faith in God. You don't need further instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. And so, God willing, we will move forward to further understanding. Hebrews 6:1-3 (NLT)

PRAY

Remember that the power of God is awesome as you pray over people in need of healing from a physical illness or a disappointment, wisdom for a major decision, or facing a major change in their life.

GLORIFY

Think through these questions this week:

1. Why does the Bible use “hands” to describe truths and attributes about God? (See: Deuteronomy 7:19; 33:3; 1 Samuel 5:6; 1 Chronicles 29:11-12)
2. What does the laying on of hands in the commissioning of leaders communicate to God's people?
3. How and why does touch communicate care?
4. What are some of the appropriate times for the “laying on of hands” today?

It is highly important to remember that touch ALWAYS should be respectful and appropriate. This means being sensitive to the times and contexts when touch should be avoided. Best practice is to ask for permission.