

Frequently Asked Questions about Baptism

Does baptism save a person?

No, salvation is by God's grace alone, through faith alone, in Jesus Christ alone. (Eph. 2:1-10) Baptism symbolizes outwardly what has already happened inwardly when a person puts their faith in Jesus.

Who should be baptized?

Those who have repented of their sins and come to personal faith in Jesus Christ. Those who have come to believe that they are weaker and more sinful than they dared imagine, but at the same time, more loved and accepted in Jesus than they dared hope. Those who realize that Jesus Christ lived the life that they should be living and died the death that they deserve.

Why should I be baptized?

- A person should be baptized because Jesus commanded us to be baptized. (Matthew 28:19)
- A person should be baptized to publicly proclaim their faith in Jesus Christ, so that the church can celebrate together with them and so that the world will know of our identification with Jesus Christ. (Acts 8:38)

How can I be saved and come into a life-changing relationship with God through Jesus Christ?

Repent of your sins and your self-reliance and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ! (Acts 16:31) Realize that you're a great sinner, but that Jesus is a great Savior. Repentance and faith must happen inwardly, but they can be expressed outwardly through a prayer something like this:

Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

Who can I talk to about a relationship with God and/or baptism?

Any one of our staff or elders would consider it a privilege to talk with you about spiritual matters of the soul and/or baptism. We are here to serve you and desire to help any way we can. Just email or phone the church office to make an appointment. (543.2358)

What is Baptism?

1. A SIGNIFICATION of the Gospel of Jesus Christ

*Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, **so we too might walk in newness of life.** For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin. --Romans 6:3-7*

2. An IDENTIFICATION with the Gospel of Jesus Christ

*For you are all sons of God through **faith in Christ Jesus.** For all of you who were **baptized into Christ** have clothed yourselves **with Christ.** There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all **one in Christ Jesus.** And **if you belong to Christ,** then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise. --Galatians 3:26-29*

3. A PROCLAMATION of the Gospel of Jesus Christ

*If you **confess with your mouth** Jesus as Lord, and **believe in your heart** that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. -- Romans 10:9*

*As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?" And Philip said, "If you **believe with all your heart,** you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him. --Acts 8:36-38*

4. A CELEBRATION of the Gospel of Jesus Christ

There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." --Luke 15:10

Our next baptism is planned for late summer.

THINK IT OVER!

Seeing the Gospel

*Communion and Baptism Sunday
Sunday, May 3, 2009*

Thinking about the Lord's Table . . .

1. Why is the Lord's Table confusing and even disturbing to unbelievers and new believers?
2. Why do we as a church come regularly to the Lord's Table according to 1 Corinthians 11:23-28?
3. Thinking hard about the act of eating and drinking, how does the Lord's Table point us to our need for Christ?
4. Again thinking hard about the act of eating and drinking, how does the Lord's Table point us to the Gospel and the provision for our need?
5. How is the Lord's Table similar and different than the hearing of God's Word? How is each a means of God's grace, but in different ways? Why is it valuable for us to come to the Lord's Table together instead of privately in our homes?
6. Share your own experience of the Lord's Table. Is it a challenge for you to come? Does the Lord meet you? What happens in you?

WORK IT OUT!

Seeing the Gospel

*Communion and Baptism Sunday
Sunday, May 3, 2009*

Thinking about Baptism . . .

1. Why is Christian baptism confusing to unbelievers and scary for new believers?
2. Why according to Matthew 28:18-20 are we at Grace committed to baptizing those who have trusted Jesus Christ?
3. So many today are baptized long after they trust Jesus as their Lord and Savior, but is that the New Testament pattern? Why are faith and baptism now so distinct and separate? How did this happen? Is that a good thing or a bad thing? What is gained and what is lost?
4. What is the value of celebrating baptisms together as a church instead of individually, privately off in the woods by ourselves?
5. Think hard about what is happening in baptism. How does baptism picture for us the Gospel and why is it powerful to see it?
6. If you have not been baptized, why not? What is keeping you from obeying the Lord in this?