

Baptism

The church comprises a community of believers who have identified with Christ through baptism.

Acts 2:36-38

“Therefore, let all Israel be assured of this, God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ. When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, Brothers, what shall we do? Peter replied, Repent and be baptized, every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sin, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

Acts 8:15-16

“When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them. They had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus.”

Acts 10:48

“So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.”

Acts 19:4-5

“John’s baptism was a baptism in repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is Jesus. On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.”

Question 1 – Why should I be baptized?

Answer 1 – To follow the example of Christ.

Matthew 3

Answer 2 – To obey the command of Christ.

Matthew 28:19,

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit.”

Answer 3 – To unite with the body of Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:12-13

“Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.”

Ephesians 4:3-5

“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body,” here it is, “one body, one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called, one Lord, one faith, one Baptism.”

Question 2 - What does baptism mean?

Answer 1 – Baptism is a celebration of the grace of Christ that has occurred in salvation.

Romans 6:1-4

“What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.”

Answer 2 – Baptism is an illustration of the gospel of Christ.

Question 3 – When should we be baptized?

Answer - You should be baptized as soon as you can best publicly proclaim your salvation.

So What?

Baptism is an incredible picture of our lives identified with Christ and His body.

If you have not been baptized, sign up today.

Make it a priority.

Scripture from New International Version
Kirk Proctor, June 25 & 26, 2011

Want to hear this again?

The sermon is posted on the church web site by Monday evening.

www.heritageqc.com Hit **“Watch sermon on-line”**

Now What? Resources for Reflection & Growth

There tends to be a lot of confusion around baptism. And while for many, it creates strong emotions, it is not a subject most people have a lot to draw from other than their own experience. So take some time and discuss or journal about your personal baptism.

Have you ever been baptized? What was your experience like? Where was it? How many people were there? Did you invite anyone? What was your understanding of baptism when you were baptized?

Sometimes, God gives us physical representations of spiritual realities – to help us understand them. He often uses ordinary things as vehicles to help us in understanding extraordinary things of Him. And that is what God is doing with baptism. This is something that the early church did so often and took so serious that they began to call it a sacrament to demonstrate how important it was and to this day, we still call it a sacrament.

How is baptism a physical representation of a spiritual reality? Read Matthew 3:1-17 and John 3:22-4:2. Baptism, with its roots in Jewish ceremonial cleansing, was for John and Jesus a public declaration of a brand new association. Why did Jesus consider it important for people to be baptized (Matthew 28:19)?

Think about the countless people who have shared in the Christian practice of baptism, from a remote tribe in Zambia to a church in the quad cities. How does it make you feel when you realize you are connected in this way, not only with Christ, but also with Christians all over the world and throughout history?

If you are a follower of Jesus Christ and you have not yet been baptized, why not? Will you commit to being baptized during the July 10th river baptism?

During the sermon, Pastor Kirk talked about baptism unifying us as a part of the church, the body of Christ. If you are in a small group and more than one of you have not yet been baptized, will you consider doing it together? As a group? As a part of the body of Christ?

If you have been baptized, will you consider attending the baptism service on July 10th and support and cheer for the many people who will be making public professions of their faith in Jesus Christ?