

LIFE IN THE CHURCH

Through the Waters
October 21, 2018

MAIN POINT: The Lord Jesus instituted baptism, which speaks of, signifies to, and seals wonderful gospel realities that are ours by grace through faith in Christ.

BAPTISM SUSTAINED (Matt. 28:16-20)

- The Lord Jesus commanded us to go to the nations with the gospel and make disciples (v. 19).
 - These disciples are to be baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (v. 19).
 - These disciples are to be taught to obey the commands of Christ, the first of which is baptism (v. 20).
 - Making disciples, baptizing, and teaching are to continue as long as Jesus is with us, which is until the end of the age (v. 20).
- The Lord Jesus authorized the sustained practice of the sacrament of baptism (vv. 18-20).

BAPTISM SPEAKS (Acts 2:37-42)

- Baptism speaks of our personal union with the Lord Jesus by grace through faith (v. 38, 41).
 - Being baptized “into the name of Jesus Christ” is a public declaration without words that we are united to the Lord Jesus.
- Baptism speaks of our corporate union with the body of Christ by grace through faith (v. 41).
 - This proclamation is made both personally by the one being baptized, and communally by those participating in the administration of baptism.

BAPTISM SIGNIFIES

- Baptism signifies our personal union with the Lord Jesus (Rom. 6:1-4; cf. Acts 2:37-42; 1 Peter 3:18-22).
 - It signifies that we have died with Jesus Christ in his death and we have been resurrected to newness of life with Jesus Christ.

- Baptism signifies the link between our conversion and our entrance into the corporate body of Christ (Col. 2:11-12; cf. Acts 2:41; 1 Cor. 11:12-13).
 - Under the Old Covenant, circumcision was the outward sign of one’s belonging to the physical covenant community through physical birth; under the New Covenant, baptism is the outward sign of one’s belonging to the spiritual covenant community through spiritual birth.
- Baptism signifies the cleansing from sin that is ours by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus (Acts 22:16; cf. Heb. 10:22; 1 John 1:7).

BAPTISM SEALS

- When we consider our own personal baptisms, all of the realities that baptism signifies are sealed onto our hearts and into our minds by the Holy Spirit.

Suggested Reading:

Understanding Baptism, Bobby Jamieson (Introductory)

Understanding Four Views on Baptism, ed. John Armstrong and Paul Engle (Intermediate)

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

1. How do you tend to view baptism? Does it look similar to any of the extreme views mentioned this morning?
2. We talked this morning about the sacrament of baptism being given only to those who have trusted in Christ and repented of their sins. Do you agree with this position? Why or why not?
3. How do you view the relationship between the sacraments of baptism and communion? Please explain.
4. Of the different ways that baptism acts as a signpost to realities that are ours by grace through faith, which reality had the most profound impact for you? Why?
5. As we consider baptism, both personally and communally, as a seal of what is ours by grace through faith, what impact does that have on how you remember your baptism and how you celebrate the baptism of others?
6. What other questions do you have about baptism?