

What does the Bible Say About... Baptism?

August 1, 2021

The Question Behind the Question:

- The Bible talks about Baptism as if something actually _____ in the water. (Acts 2:38)
- This seems to contradict the idea that we are saved by _____. (Ephesians 2:8-9)
- What is Baptism? What does it actually ____? What role does it play in _____ a Christian?

Sacraments

- God gives human beings a _____ in _____ his grace with others. (John 14:12-14)
- God gives us certain _____ (sacraments) to help _____ his grace with others. (1 Corinthians 10:16)
- Sacraments give us _____ of grace that shape our _____. (1 Corinthians 10:17)
- Sacraments do not limit what _____ can do—they limit what _____ can do _____. (Acts 8:15-16, 10:44-47)

The Sacrament of Baptism

- Baptism is God's chosen way of _____ people into the _____. (Matthew 28:19-20)
- Baptism is the moment we _____ the forgiveness and _____ of God. (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)
- The experience of Baptism shapes our _____ and our _____. (Galatians 3:26-29, Romans 6:1-3)

Conclusions:

- We are not saved by _____ --we are saved by _____.
- Baptism is a gift of _____ --it gives us a moment when our salvation becomes _____.
- Baptism is a _____ --a way to share _____ with a desperate world.

Discussion Questions

1. Getting Started:

- What did you find most interesting about the sermon this week? The most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling?
- Our culture has its own versions of sacraments—events that shape our identity, like weddings and graduations. Why do you think these moments are so important?
- What is the most powerful identity-shaping experience you have had?

2. Into the Bible (Read Titus 3:1-7)

- Consider the instructions of verse 1. What makes these commands difficult to follow?
- In verse 2, Paul begins explaining *why* we should do the hard work of verse 1. Why does it matter that we used to be “foolish, disobedient,” etc?

- Where do you see baptism referenced in verses 3-7? What does Paul want them to learn from their own baptisms?

- Putting this all together, how does the experience of baptism help us to fulfill the instructions Paul gives us in verse 1?

3. Going Deeper

- How does Baptism shape our identity as Christians? How should it change the way we live?
- How can we use the practice of baptism to offer hope to people who need Jesus?
- What other actions can we use to bring God’s grace and hope to others?