

sermon study summary

Baptism

Kent Priebe

May 17 / 18, 2024

Jesus set forth two ordinances or sacraments for Christians to observe – Baptism and Communion, or the Lord’s Supper. After receiving Jesus as your Lord and Savior, the next step is to be baptized.

Baptism is important because Jesus commanded it. He said, *“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit”* (Matthew 28:19).

Why have many Christians not been baptized?

Ignorance. Some simply don’t know the importance of baptism.

Pride. Some have put off being baptized, and being baptized now would reveal their obedience is long delayed.

Fear of speaking in front of people. No need to fear – we will help you write out your testimony. You can just read what you’ve prepared.

Vanity. Some people don’t want others to see them with wet hair and clothes. Those watching expect you to get wet. They want to celebrate your obedience to Christ and hear your testimony.

What is the meaning of Baptism?

1. Baptism illustrates Jesus death, burial, and resurrection. In baptism you communicate that you believe in and identify with Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection as you go under the water and then are brought back out. Baptism preaches of what Jesus has done for you.

Baptism is saying that your life NOW is defined in every way by Jesus. So you can say, *“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”* Galatians 2:20

2. Baptism illustrates new life in Christ. You have been forgiven and are dead to sin. You are a new creation, born again, free from the past, and day by day becoming new.... not perfect, not sinless, not without fault, not without failure... but are living in a new spiritual reality.

The act of baptism doesn’t forgive your sin or give you eternal life – Jesus did that. Baptism SHOWS that you believe in Jesus and SHOWS that your sin has been forgiven. Baptism is an outward symbol of your inner decision to believe in Jesus. Baptism illustrates total surrender to Jesus.

Why should I be baptized?

1. Because Jesus was baptized, and He did it *“to fulfill all righteousness”* (Matthew 3:15). It was the right thing for Jesus to do... to be obedient to His Father. He wants obedience to God to be the pattern of your life.

2. To show you are a true follower of Jesus. Being baptized doesn’t mean you will not sin anymore. It means you believe that Jesus is the Son of God, that He died for your sin, that He was raised to life again, and that you love him. Baptism, like a wedding ring, is the mark of followers of Jesus. This is what followers of Jesus do. Throughout the book of Acts, people believed in Jesus and were baptized – many of them the same day.

3. To show you are not ashamed of Jesus. In baptism you publicly acknowledge Jesus before others. *“Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven”* (Matthew 10:32-33). You don’t want the Father to disown you.

Who can be baptized and when?

Anyone who believes in Jesus as their Lord and savior can be baptized. You should be baptized **after** you believe, not before. If you believe in Jesus as your Savior and Lord and you have not been baptized, decide today to take this step of obedience. Do it soon!

sermon study guide

IN – PURSUE RELATIONSHIP

1. What celebration, anniversary, or special day did you attend in the past year? Describe what the event was like.
2. What preconceptions about baptism have you encountered?

UP – PURSUE GOD

3. Read Romans 6:3-5, Galatians 2:20, Ephesians 4:13. Use these verses to describe what baptism symbolizes.
4. Read Mark 1:9-11, Matthew 3:15, and Matthew 10:32-33. Why did Jesus get baptized? Why do we need to get baptized? What are the differences between Jesus' baptism and ours?

OUT – PURSUE MISSION

5. Why is it important to be old enough to make an informed decision before getting baptized? Why is baptism essential to a believer's walk with Jesus?
6. When you get baptized, you are saying, "I am not ashamed of identifying with Jesus." What does Jesus tell us to do in Matthew 28:19? What is the next step in obedience to Jesus' command?

For Personal Reflection / Prayer:

Have you been baptized? If not, what is stopping you from doing so? If you want to be baptized, fill out our baptism form at cchurch.ca/baptism.

If you have been baptized, recall the moment you did so, and how it made an impact on your spiritual journey. Praise God!

THE WORD (NIV) cont'd.

Romans 6:2-5 2 By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? 3 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 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.

5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his.

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Ephesians 4:13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Mark 1:9-11 9 At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. 11 And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

Matthew 3:15 Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented.

Matthew 10:32-33 32 "Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. 33 But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.

Matthew 28:19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

This week's writers: Elsa Henderson, David McMillin, and Mark Eckstein