

Understanding Baptism: I BELONG to Jesus and Jesus Belongs to Me



THE GOSPEL

CREATION

Genesis 1:26 -27/Genesis 1:31: God created everything that exists, and He created everything good. Men and women were created in the image of God – to know Him and worship Him and to enjoy His presence and glory. They were created to live in love and community with God, each other, and with the rest of creation.

FALL

Genesis 3/Romans 3:23/Romans 6:23: Instead of loving and worshiping God, people chose to sin, to disobey God. Sin brought death and separation from God. It broke our relationship to God, to each other, and to creation.

REDEMPTION

Genesis 3:15/Romans 5:8/Acts 4:12/Titus 3:4 -7: Jesus Christ came as the promised redeemer to die in the place of sinners. He took our judgement – the punishment we deserved for our sin. God raised Jesus from the dead proving that his sacrifice was accepted. Now through faith in Christ, our relationship with God, with other people, and with creation is restored and made new.

RESPONSE

Romans 10:9 -10/Romans 10:13/Galatians 2:20: We receive forgiveness by turning from our sins and trusting in Jesus' death and resurrection for us. He is then our Lord and Savior, and we live our lives to honor Him, please Him, and to make Him known to others.

BAPTISM

WHAT IS BAPTISM?

Romans 6:25: Baptism is immersion in water in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as commanded by Jesus. Baptism is a visual presentation of the gospel. It displays the truth that Jesus died, He was buried, and He rose again. It is a public declaration of faith in Jesus that marks the believer from the world and identifies them with Christ and His Church. It signifies being united to Christ, being cleansed from sin, and our commitment to follow Christ as Lord.

WHO CAN BE BAPTIZED?

Acts 2:41/Acts 10:43: Everyone who has repented of their sin and placed their full faith in Jesus as Lord should be baptized. While other churches may have different criteria for baptizing, we choose to follow the scriptural pattern of only baptizing those who have turned from their sin and trusted Christ.

WHY IS BAPTISM IMPORTANT?

Matthew 28:18-20/Acts 8:12: Baptism is important because Jesus commanded us to be baptized as a testimony to our faith in Him. In the Scriptures, every person who confesses faith in Christ is baptized. Historically, all Christians have practiced baptism in some form for the past 2000 years.

HOW ARE WE BAPTIZED?

Matthew 3:13-17/Acts 8:35-39: The word baptize means “to dip” or “to immerse” and the scriptural accounts of baptism indicate that those baptized went into the water, were immersed, and then came up out of the water. In light of these considerations we also baptize by immersion in water

HELPING CHILDREN UNDERSTAND BAPTISM

Many times, a salvation conversation with children begins with the statement, “I want to be baptized.” Why is this the case? Well, for children, baptism is an event that they can see and feel. As concrete thinkers, children often are drawn to objects or even situations that they are able to engage with using their senses. Baptism is no different. Children often see others being baptized, and they are able to feel the water in the baptistery, so they naturally have a desire to take part in it. With this in mind, we believe that it is important for children to understand the answers to key questions about baptism before going through the waters of baptism themselves. Here are the questions to consider, as you begin having conversations about baptism with your child.

WHEN IS THE RIGHT TIME?

We believe that those who have trusted Jesus as their Lord and Savior are candidates for baptism. If your child has made this decision to follow Jesus, then time for baptism is not far away. Do not rush this conversation though. At this point, we believe it is best to take some time. It is important for kids to understand that being baptized is not what saves them but rather faith and trust in Jesus and what He did for us on the cross. By putting some time between the point of salvation and baptism, the child will be able to better understand the difference between the two. As you continue to talk with your child about the decision they have made to follow Jesus, it is important for them to be able to explain why they made that decision. Did they do it because their older siblings did? Did they do it because that’s what their SS teacher told them to do? When they are able to explain their decision and have even demonstrated this to be true in their lives, it is a good time to discuss being baptized.

WHY DO WE GET BAPTIZED?

Many ask whether or not baptism is necessary for salvation. The answer to this question is no. Having considered this however, we believe it is of utmost importance. We believe that being baptized is important for two reasons. It is an act of obedience and it also gives testimony to those watching to what Christ has already done in their heart. As a child of God, it should be our desire to be obedient to Jesus and this is one of the first major steps of obedience in the Christian's life. The act of baptism also tells a story. Baptism presents the picture of Jesus Christ being crucified, buried, and raised on the third day, as the child is laid under the water and then raised up again. This act of being baptized should point back to a time in your child's life where they understood what Jesus did for them and surrendered to Him.

BAPTISM CHECKLIST

- I have spoken to a pastor about being baptized.
- I understand what baptism is and why I am being baptized.
- I have scheduled my baptism with the church office (931-232-5496).
- I have filled out the "Your Story" section of this brochure.
- I have invited my family and friends to come celebrate my baptism with me!

Love God. Love Others. Serve the World.

YOUR STORY

TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF: What do you do for a living: Are you in school? If so, where? What are your hobbies? Who is your family?

FBC DOVER: How did you get connected to First Baptist? What brought you here?

SALVATION: When did you realize your need for a Savior? How did God save you? Where were you? Was there someone or some event that was instrumental in your becoming a Christian?

TRANSFORMATION: Specifically, tell us how you've changed since you became a follower of Christ. What has God been teaching you as you grow as a Christian?

BAPTISM: What made you decide to be baptized? Why do you think it is important to be baptized?

WRITE YOUR STORY

Use the space below and on the next page to answer the "Your Story" questions. Writing it out will help you share your story with others.
