

5. Read the passage below. What do you learn about baptism from this passage?

Romans 6: 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.

6. Read the passages below. Why are embodied experiences (physical acts and expressions of faith) so important in relationship with God?

Colossians 3: ¹⁶ Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

Ephesians 5: ¹⁸ ...be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord.

7. Are there any embodied/physical expressions that are not mandated but that you might want to start practicing to help you connect better with God (e.g., kneeling for prayer, praying at the light station during the service, prayer walking,, etc.)?

The Story of Baptism

"4 Reasons Baptism is So Important" (Part 2)
Matthew 3:11-17

What is Baptism?

The English word "to baptize" is a transliteration of the Greek word baptizo which means "to plunge," "to dip," or "to submerge."

Baptism was a common cleansing ritual in the Judaism of Jesus' day.

John the Baptist innovated, and he baptized people as a sign of repentance.

4 Reasons Baptism is So Important

1. We are disciples of Jesus, and Jesus mandated baptism for his disciples. Baptism is a matter of obedience to that mandate. (Matthew 28:19-20)

2. We live _____ lives, and baptism tells and even re-enacts God's redemption story. It's an important aspect of spiritual formation.

When you were baptized, you were _____ parts of God's story, entering that story, being formed by that story.

3. Human _____ depends on outward practices, habits, rituals, and celebrated milestones like baptism.

Celebrating milestones is important in an individual's life. It inspires continued effort, adds to the _____ of accomplishment, and makes us feel valued.

Your baptism is important for your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. And it's an important _____ for your family or your kids or for your parents. It can be important witness for people exploring Christianity.

4. We are _____ beings, and baptism is one of the mandated physical (embodied) representations of a personal decision to follow Jesus.

We often think all that matters is what goes on between our two _____. This happens especially in matters of faith.

Colossians 3: ¹⁶ Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

Ephesians 5: ¹⁸ ...be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord.

We're called to speak and _____ to one another. These are important shared embodied experiences.

Romans 6: 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.

We know of no _____ believers in the New Testament apart from the thief on the cross.

Resource for Further Study:

"Water Baptism" by Stephen Wellum in the Concise Theology Series at the Gospel Coalition site (<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/topics/baptism/>) provides an excellent overview of baptism in general and discusses the theological differences between the practice of believer baptism (credobaptist) and infant baptism (paedobaptist) in evangelicalism.

Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. Explain how one of your daily or weekly habits/rituals helps keep you on track or makes for a better day or week.
3. Read Matthew 3:11-17. How does a milestone like baptism impact the individual being baptized?
4. How does a milestone like baptism impact those who are watching?