

BAPTISM CLASS

WHAT IS BAPTISM?

BAPTISM OF _____

John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. - Mark 1:4-5

Baptism symbolizes a person's desire to live a new way of life, the way of Jesus. Baptism is a meaningful act that demonstrates our intention to turn from our sin and embrace God.

BAPTISM OF _____

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. - Matthew 28:18-20

Baptism symbolizes a person's desire to follow Jesus and his teachings. It is, in essence, the entrance into the Christian faith. It is the way a person identifies themselves as a Christian.

WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

Everyone who desires to turn from their sin (repentance) and follow after Jesus (faith) is called to be baptized. All that is required is a desire to follow, trust, and receive Jesus and his teachings.

WHY BAPTISM?

SYMBOL OF _____

As we are baptized, it is saying that our old self, who we were before Jesus, is laid to rest. Our former way of life marked by sin and rebellion is put to death and buried. And we come out of the water like a brand new person, to walk in a new way, the way of Jesus.

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. - Romans 6:1-5

SYMBOL OF _____

In the same way that water washes a person's body outwardly, turning to God in faith washes a person's soul inwardly. Baptism embodies our request for God to give us a clean heart, to wash away our sin.

And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name. - Acts 22:16

ACT OF _____

In Baptism, we offer our lives to God and promise to follow him all our days. We pledge our ultimate obedience to him alone. But God also makes promises to us in Baptism, to lavish us with his grace and forgiveness. He speaks over us what he spoke to Jesus at his baptism, that we are God's beloved sons and daughters, with whom he is well pleased.

ACT OF _____

In Baptism, we are spiritually united to Jesus through faith. We become one with Jesus so that what happens to him happens to us.

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus. - Ephesians 2:4-6

In many churches, praying a prayer, raising a hand, or walking an aisle is often seen as the way a person becomes united to Jesus. In the New Testament, however, the primary way a person was identified as a Christian and united to Jesus was through Baptism.

For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. - Galatians 3:27-28

DOES BAPTISM SAVE YOU?

WE ARE SAVED THROUGH _____

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. - Ephesians 2:8-9

The only way we can receive the salvation that Jesus offers us is by trusting fully in him as our only Lord and Savior. It is not by works or by how good we are.

WE RESPOND TO THE GOOD NEWS THROUGH _____

While we are rescued by faith alone, Baptism is the way we formally receive Jesus. It is what marks us out as followers of Jesus. It is the sign of our faith that begins our walk with Jesus. In the Bible, Baptism went hand-in-hand with coming to faith in Jesus.

HOW DOES BAPTISM LOOK AT FRONTLINE?

VOWS AND RENUNCIATIONS

Leader: Do you turn to Jesus as Savior?

Congregation: I turn to Jesus!

Leader: Do you submit to Jesus as Lord?

Congregation: I submit to Jesus!

Leader: Do you reject the Devil and all rebellion against God?

Congregation: I reject them!

Leader: Do you repent of all sinful desires that separate you from God and neighbor?

Congregation: I repent of them!

Leader: Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil in the world?

Congregation: I renounce them!

Leader: Do you come to Jesus, the Way, the Truth, and the Life?

Congregation: I come to Jesus!

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

Leader: Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

Congregation: I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried;
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the one holy church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.

RECEPTION

Leader: Family of God, do you receive these brothers and sisters into Christ's Church, to nurture, love, and encourage them to be Christ's faithful disciples?

Congregation: We receive them, and commit to love and encourage them in Christ. Thanks be to God!