

Growth Group News

We desperately need volunteers for VBS!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Call today...

Baptism Selected Texts

INSTRUCTIONS: THESE QUESTIONS ARE INTENDED TO CAUSE US TO THINK MORE DEEPLY ABOUT OUR FAITH IN VIEW OF THE SERMON. YOU MAY NOT GET TO EVERY QUESTION. ONE QUESTION MAY INDUCE OTHER FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS OR CAUSE A LARGER DISCUSSION. OUR PURPOSE ISN'T TO 'DISCUSS THE SERMON' SO MUCH AS IT IS TO TAKE OUR CONSIDERATION OF THE PASSAGE DEEPER SO THAT WE CAN LIVE CHANGED LIVES.

ICE BREAKER QUESTION

Have you been baptized as a believer by immersion?

ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTIONS

Are you willing to be baptized by immersion and in obedience to Christ?

UNDERSTANDING QUESTIONS

1. In Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus commands that those who follow Him receive baptism after committing their lives to Him as His disciples. He explains that all authority has been given Him. He commands that we go make disciples. They He tells us to baptize these disciples and train them in the faith. In essence we are to baptize people capable of deciding to commit their lives to Christ. How, then, does this rule out the practice of infant baptism (think sequence).
2. We understand baptism is an act of obedience to Christ in light of His command and in light of all He did for us. It is said that baptism is our first public step of obedience to Christ and an indication of our loyal love for Him. Why should all believers (i.e. followers of Christ) be baptized?
3. Some believe that baptism is something supernatural. However, being born again is supernatural in that God has given us new life in Christ. We call baptism an ordinance because it is only an outward symbol of an inward, eternal change that has already taken place (John 3:3-15). Do you understand that baptism doesn't save us? Do you understand that baptism is simply a symbol? Do you understand that baptism is not a 'sacrament' (a ritual that has saving powers)?
4. In Acts 8:27-40, what indications are there that baptism was for believers, by immersion and required large amounts of water? In Mark 1:10 Jesus "came up out of the water." In John 3:23 we read that John the Baptist was baptizing because in the place he was there was much water there. If baptism was by sprinkling, why the need of large amounts of water? Why didn't the people in Acts 8 just sprinkle water from a bowl? Why did Jesus come up out of the water? Shouldn't we baptize the way Jesus was baptized and the way the disciples and apostles baptized?
5. What good reason would a Christian have for refusing baptism?