

The Dynamics of Baptism In The Life of a Believer

Text: Romans 6:1-6:7

MATT 28:19-20

19Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in[a] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matt 3:13-16

13Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. 14But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"

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

16As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him.

ROM 6:1-7

Dead to Sin, Alive in Christ

1What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? 2By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? 3Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4We 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.

5If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. 6For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with,[a] that we should no longer be slaves to sin— 7because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.

INTRODUCTION:

During the earthly ministry of Jesus, there were two, maybe three activities He considered vital to the walk of a believer in Christ.

These activities were not essential for salvation, yet they were essential in a growing relationship with Jesus Himself.

1. The disputed one, meaning some will practice it, and others will not is what we refer to as “foot washing”.

Foot washing was one of the last activities that Jesus did on the evening He was to be betrayed.

At the end of this act, He encouraged his disciples to be servants to do likewise.

John 13:12-15 (New King James Version)

12 So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you? 13 You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. 14 If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. 15 For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.

2. The second act activity important to our growing as a believer is that of “communion”

The remembering of the death of Jesus Christ affords us the opportunity to keep our relationship with God and with others clean and open.

In I Corinthians 11 it reads this way, *“a man or a woman must examine them motives, test their hearts, and come to this meal in holy awe.”*

It was NEVER God’s intention that we refrain from communion, but that take part in this as He said, *“In Remembrance of Me...”*

We examine ourselves before participating, making the necessary spiritual adjustments, even to the point of asking for forgiveness of any unforgiven sins in our spiritual lives, so that we CAN participate openly and without hesitation.

(Would you join with me as we participate in the Lord’s Communion?)

3. The third activity, we celebrate today, is that of “baptism”.

This is a personal act, yet one that is rich in meaning.

This is what we will be doing this evening in our combined service with the Vineyard Church.

– The dynamics of Baptism in the life of a believer!

ILLUSTRATION:

Baptism is a lot like a wedding ring.

Baptism is symbolic of the washing away of our sins.

It is also symbolic of a new way of life.

It has been said that Baptism is to the Christian faith what the wedding ring is to a marriage.

It is a symbol. **“Like the wedding ring, baptism draws a mark on the ground between the past and the future. Like the wedding ring, it says, “From this day forward, I stand with God.”**

It’s what we refer to as we say, Baptism is an outward testimony of an inward work that has been done in us through Jesus Christ.

I. THE PLACE OF BAPTISM IN THE LIFE OF THE BELIEVER IN CHRIST

Matthew 28:18-20

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

19Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

A. The basis for baptism is by the authority of Jesus

Jesus had the authority from God the Father to send His disciples out into the world

They were to make disciples – Salvation**They were to baptize – Public declaration of salvation****ILLUSTRATION:**

Dr. M.R. DeHaan put it this way: In the early days of the church. . . , baptism was a declaration that the believer was definitely identifying himself with that group of people who were called Christians and were despised and hated.

To be a Christian meant something.

To identify yourself with those who were called Christians meant persecution, maybe death; it meant being ostracized from your family, shunned by friends.

And the one act which was the final declaration of this identification was BAPTISM.

As long as a man gathered with Christians, he was tolerated, but when once he submitted to baptism, he declared to all the world, I BELONG TO THIS DESPISED GROUP, and immediately he was persecuted, hated, and despised.

In baptism, therefore, the believer entered into the fellowship of the sufferings of Christ.

A person might be a believer and keep it strictly a secret and thus avoid unpleasantness and suffering, but once he submitted to public baptism he had burned his bridges behind him. . .”
(Pamphlet, Water Baptism, p. 27).

There were few instances in Scripture where salvation was not immediately followed by baptism, nor where the new believer sought to be baptized.

They were to teach – instruct them in the Word of God

Next I want you to see with me - The Foundational Place of Baptism**Baptism was commanded by Christ**

Baptism was exemplified by Christ

Matthew 3:13-15

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. 14But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" 15Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented.

Jesus identified Himself with us

I can't in any way believe that Jesus had to be baptized, because He lived a life without sin.

He was the Divine Son of God.

And yet, He insisted on being baptized so that He could show us that we too need to follow His example.

So Jesus identified Himself with us.

Illustration:

Someone asked me this week if their baptism counted when they were younger or they came from the Catholic Church.

I have always felt that it was important even when a Christian believer made a recommitment to Christ, they needed to do the works of baptism again.

I also have had people ask me if their baptism as a child counted.

And my response has been that this was something they experienced because of a choice of their parents.

I refer to this as Child dedication and not child baptism.

Once you arrived at the age of accountability, you made a decision to accept Christ as your personal Savior and from that experience you become obedient even to baptism.

So, in answer to this, Child baptism does not take the place of your baptism when you come to know and accept Christ as your personal Savior.

Now Christ asks us to identify with Him!

II. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF BAPTISM IN THE LIFE OF THE BELIEVER IN CHRIST

Now let me take you to Romans chapter 6.

Baptism is SYMBOLIC of our freedom from sin.

Romans 6:3 *Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?*

You see – when we are immersed under the water – it symbolizes as we go under we die to sin and when we come up out of the water, we are alive unto Christ.

Romans 6:7-8 *because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. 8Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.*

1. **Our identification with Christ (salvation) broke the hold that sin had on us.**
2. **Baptism is an illustration of that spiritual event**

Going down into the water – death of Christ
Under the water – Burial of Christ
Up from the water – Resurrection of Christ

Baptism is a PERSONAL PROMISE of Godly living – living the life of holiness.

In Romans 6:2 we read, “*By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?*”

ILLUSTRATION:

Several years ago Rick Stacy, a pastor in Michigan, baptized a man in Lake Superior.

It was late October and about 9:00 PM.

Rick had been talking with Myron and his wife about accepting the Lord as their personal Savior and sealing that decision with baptism into Jesus.

Myron was hesitant for a long time and then finally said, “Yes, I want to accept Jesus – and I want to be baptized tonight – right now in Lake Superior.

In case you don’t know Lake Superior is cold.

The average temperature (year round) is about 38 degrees.

This was late October and the wind gales of November had come early. (Remember the Edmund Fitzgerald)

The waves were running 3 feet high.

The water was very cold.

They were going to walk out waist deep into the water, but only made it about knee deep.

Rick laid Myron down and the waves washed over him as he was baptized in the name of Jesus.

When they went back to Myron’s home for some hot cocoa and a hot soak for their cold feet, Rick asked him why it was so important that he do this that night in Lake Superior.

His answer: “I was in the army, an officer in the infantry during Viet Nam. I saw and did things that no man should see or do. I wanted my sins buried in the deepest and coldest place...”

(SOURCE: Rick Stacy, Senior Pastor, Meridian Christian Church, Okemos, Michigan, October 2001.)

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Now – This does not mean we are perfect. We can live above sinning, but there is sin from time to time in the sanctified life that needs to be forgiven.

We will always struggle with temptation and sin.

We do not have to follow our sin nature any longer

Romans 6:6-7 For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin-- 7because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.

This means we have a new master

Sin is no longer our master (we died to sin)

Jesus is our master

Romans 6:9 For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him.

C. Baptism is a DIVINE PICTURE of our Eternal Destiny

If we truly come to Him and He forgives us of our sins and we are adopted into the family of God we can have the blessed Hope and Assurance of going to heaven.

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Romans 6:8-9 “Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him.”

We started out this life dead spiritually – *“the wages of sin is death”*

Salvation brings us spiritual life, a life that never ends.

This is why we are spiritually *“EVERLASTING”* beings.

The condition of our spiritual life continues on after our physical life ends

The time of our physical life is the time to determine our spiritual life.

Hebrews 9:27 Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment,

We have an ETERNAL existence with Him

Romans 6:5 “If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection.”

III. THE FUTURE AFTER BAPTISM IN THE LIFE OF THE BELIEVER IN CHRIST

Romans 6:11 *In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.*

We are to live our lives as “dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus”

Living in Christ is not continuing our present way of living.

Living in Christ is living so that sin is not the ruler of our lives.

The sense is do not let it continue to exercise the influence over you it once did

We are to hate sin just as God hates sin.

Remember there will be no sin in heaven.

It is a command of God – something you are able to do but only through the infilling and indwelling of the power of the Holy Spirit in sanctifying grace!

“But” – a word of contrast

I can't be alive to God and continue to live in known sin. I can't do both!

It's this simple – I'm either doing one or doing the other

I'm either living in Christ or I'm living in sin. I can't do both!

We are to live our lives as offerings to God

Romans 6:12-13 *“Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. 13Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness.”*

How do we do this?

We do this by **“not offering ourselves to sin”**

This is the image of something offered for sacrifice.

It's the Old Testament thought that puts ones self on the altar of sacrifice.

That's why we use the Altar here at PCN.

You see – it's my understanding we keep ourselves on the altar of sacrifice. We're tempted to “crawl off the altar,” but we need to stay on the altar.

Paul says, *“...offer the parts of your body to Him as instruments of righteousness.”*

Don't put yourself in the position where you are exposed to the same activities you once did.

Illustration:

I heard this story when I was very young in the ministry from another preacher.
 A man received Christ as His personal Savior.
 He was an alcoholic.
 He frequented the bars before he got saved.
 His problem was that after he was saved, he would park his car in front of the bars and then walk to wherever he had to go.

Spiritual Application:

Friends, listen to me, when you get saved, you can't expose yourself to the old sin that you were saved from.

That's just sitting yourself up for spiritual defeat.

We are to be "instruments of righteousness"

Our bodies are not the source of sin, but the instrument sin uses to manifest itself.

We are to make ourselves instruments of righteousness – people through whom righteousness can flow.

That's why when we are changed into a new man or a new woman in Christ, people of the world watch us and if they don't see a change in our behavior and actions then it doesn't attract them to the Savior.

In the early church Salvation was followed by baptism, then a devotion to God's Word, and to the importance of others through fellowship and witness.

Acts 2:41-42 *"Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. 42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."*

- 1) **First, people were saved after the sermon.**
- 2) **They were baptized.**
- 3) **Three thousand joined the church that day.**
- 4) **They got involved in Bible study**
- 5) **They fellowshiped with each other**
- 6) **They broke bread and prayed together.**
- 7) **Everywhere they went they told people about Jesus and the change that happened in their lives.**

Baptism does not mark the end of a journey, only a mile marker at the start of a life of obedience for Christ!

Invitation:

There are some people here this morning who need to experience Communion.

This morning we are going to partake of the Lord's Supper.

What is it in your life that is sin?

Could it be a critical spirit?

Could it be that you are gossiping about your neighbor?

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Could it be that you are deliberately sinning in looking at pornography?

Could it be that you are lusting after someone other than your spouse?

Could it be this morning that you are sinning in falsely accusing someone and it is destroying that person's reputation?

Could it be that you have slipped from your devotion to God and you have drifted spiritually to the place where you don't feel Him like you once did?

Only you and God would know where you stand spiritually.

I ask you as you take of the communion this morning that you will examine your spiritual life and be willing to repent before you take the communion.

The Message says it like this, "*Anyone who eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Master irreverently is like part of the crowd that jeered and spit on Him at His death. Is that the kind of 'reverence' you want to be part of? Examine your motives, test your heart, come to this meal in holy awe.*"

Invitation:

I have preached a sermon mainly on why we need to be baptized.

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If you are here this morning and you know that you need to be baptized, then we are going to baptize believers in tonight's service.

I would like to meet with everyone who wants to be baptized immediately following this service here on the front rows.

I want to give you instructions for what you need to bring and what to expect.