

## Baptism

There are two sacraments that are physical pictures that we are to act out, because Jesus asked us to. They remind us of two of the most important lessons that Jesus wanted us to remember.

One is communion. It tells us of Christ dying for our sins – how his body was broken for us, and that we are in a new covenant/agreement with God. This agreement is not based on what we do but on his blood that was poured out for us.

The other sacrament Jesus told us to do is found in Mt. 28:18-20 Baptism- The people in Jesus day understood exactly what baptism was about because it was a fairly common practice. Even some of the Greeks used a form of baptism when initiating new followers into their sects. The symbolism was that they died to their old life and would be born again empowered by a certain god.

The Jews were familiar with baptism too. Every time a Gentile was converted he would undergo a ceremonial baptism where his old life was washed away and his new life began as a spiritual child of Abraham. They would even give the person a new name. So when John came telling the Jews they needed to be baptized they understood that he was saying they needed to die to their ways and start a new life.

That is why the Ethiopian eunuch said, "Here is water, why not baptize me?" He already understood it meant dying to his old self and ways to begin a new life. It also showed ownership. It means our new Master is now Christ.

Not only do we relate to the death of Christ as we go under, we also relate to his resurrected life. He was not the same when He rose. Neither should we be the same. Read Romans 6:1-8 <sup>1</sup> What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?<sup>2</sup> By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?<sup>3</sup> Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?<sup>4</sup> 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.<sup>5</sup> If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection.<sup>6</sup> 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--<sup>7</sup> because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.<sup>8</sup> Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.<sup>9</sup> For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him.<sup>10</sup> The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.<sup>11</sup> In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to

God in Christ Jesus.<sup>12</sup> Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires.<sup>13</sup> Do 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.<sup>14</sup> For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace. Romans 6:1-14 (NIV)  
The life of the resurrected Christ is to live in and through us. – Our bodies are to be his instruments of righteousness.

Baptism is also a public confession. It tells all who see it that you belong to Jesus. Because of this I would like to ask each of you to give a one minute story of how you came to trust in Jesus, or how He has made a difference in your life. Would each of you tell me what you are going to say? Take a few minutes and work on it. If you feel you cannot I will simply ask you if you have trusted Jesus to make you right with God forgiving your sins.

Finally, it is a picture of being immersed in the Spirit of God. John said Jesus came to baptize us in the Spirit. We should each be seeking God's Spirit to engulf us and overflow from our lives.

2 large towels, robe or not see through solid color oversize shirt, slippers, swimsuit underneath. Questions ?