

Celebrate Life

Celebrate Life (Baptismal Services)

Pastor Tyler Scott

April 11-12, 2015

INTRODUCTION

This weekend we baptized, reaffirmed the baptisms of, or anointed approximately 50 men, women and children in our worship services! That's a lot of life in Christ to celebrate! That means over 50 people and families celebrated by publicly identifying themselves as followers of Jesus. That's awesome!

Since baptism is all about identifying with Jesus—His death and resurrection to new life—take a few moments and thank God for what He has done for us, and what He is doing in our through us. Thank him for the amazing covenant of grace that He invites us into.

If you were there, share a favorite moment from the weekend services. If not, share your favorite moment from Easter. If you missed both weeks, share your favorite color :).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS on Baptism:

1. Describe a time when you joined an organization or a team or worked at a company that required you to wear a uniform or something that identified you with the organization or company.
 - How did you feel when you first received your uniform?
 - How did you feel when you wore that uniform?
 - How did your uniform provide an association between you and the organization?
2. Share your understanding of baptism was when you got baptized (if you have been...or if you can remember :), whether as a child or adult. Describe if your understanding has changed any since that time.
3. Read Acts 2:36-41 and Matthew 3:13-17. The church comprises a covenant community of believers who follow the example of Christ, obey the command of Christ, and identify with Christ through baptism.
 - What is the primary reason that we should be baptized?
 - Why is identifying with Christ through baptism a difficult action for many to take?
 - How did Jesus' baptism help him identify with humankind?

4. **Read Matthew 28:18-19.**

- What did Jesus command His followers to do?
- Why was baptism included in Jesus' command to His followers?
- How would baptism help accomplish Jesus mission to the world?

5. **Read Romans 6:1-7, 10.**

- Looking specifically at Verse 10, how did Christ's death provide a substitution for us?
- How does this passage clearly indicate that baptism illustrates and celebrates the Gospel of Christ?
- How did baptism proclaim Christ to unbelievers who witnessed these events?

6. What emotions do we often associate with baptism? Why?

- Do you view baptism as a witnessing opportunity for unbelievers or just a celebration for believers? How is it both?
- If baptism identifies us with Christ, what is the significance of us identifying with His death and resurrection?

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

The Beauty of Baptism is that it is an essential and joyful declaration to the world that we belong to Jesus.

- ***Have you been baptized?***
- ***Do you need to be baptized?***
- ***What would keep you from being baptized and identifying with Christ?***

Remember: although baptism does not make us right before God (justification), it does demonstrate the repentance offered through faith in Christ alone and our identification with Christ—symbolizing our inclusion in his covenant of grace through faith. It is also important for our sanctification as we walk in obedience and learn to trust Christ.

PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER

Share prayer requests, and pray for the person on your right!