

*The Grace to Keep Loving*

**The Grace of Baptism**

Acts 8:26–39

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The Lord's Day Morning

August 27, 2017

*The outward and ordinary means whereby Christ communicates to us the benefits of redemption are, his ordinances, especially the Word, sacraments, and prayer; all which are made effectual to the elect for salvation...A sacrament is a holy ordinance instituted by Christ; wherein, by sensible signs, Christ, and the benefits of the new covenant, are represented, sealed, and applied to believers...The sacraments of the New Testament are, baptism, and the Lord's Supper.*

–From the Westminster Shorter Catechism of 1646, Questions 88,92,93

Last week, we considered how our love for Jesus tends to increase as we gather each Lord's Day to hear the preached Word with a prepared heart. In the preaching of the Word, we *hear* the good news of God's love for us. In the sacraments (baptism and the Lord's Supper) we *see* the good news of God's love for us. Through baptism, God pours out his grace on his people. Those who have prepared their hearts to receive or bear witness to baptism, will grow in their love for Jesus because baptism:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ the good news of Christ's love for us in his death for sins, burial, resurrection, and appearances (Ro. 6:3–4).
2. \_\_\_\_\_ the new believer into a life of gathering, growing, and going for the love of Christ. (2 Cor. 5:14–15).
3. \_\_\_\_\_ the new believer with an outward sign of an inward reality (Col. 2:11–12).
4. \_\_\_\_\_ the new believer as a member of a local church with a credible testimony (1 Cor. 12:13).
5. \_\_\_\_\_ the believer's vow to know, love, obey, and exalt Jesus no matter what (Lk. 14:28).
6. \_\_\_\_\_ the new believer with a clear conscience (Jn. 14:15).
7. \_\_\_\_\_ an unbaptized believer of his or her disobedience (Acts 8:36).
8. \_\_\_\_\_ baptized believers to repent and renew their baptismal vows to Christ (Rev. 2:5).
9. \_\_\_\_\_ all believers that God's full forgiveness, total pardon, and complete acceptance are ours because we are united to Christ (Gal. 3:27).

To respond to the preached Word this morning by seeking to be baptized, please contact any of our pastors: Jess Montegudo ([jess@fbc.org](mailto:jess@fbc.org)) Paul Cheshier ([paul@fbc.org](mailto:paul@fbc.org)), Vance Helms ([vance@fbc.org](mailto:vance@fbc.org)), Bruce Ellsworth ([bruce@fbc.org](mailto:bruce@fbc.org)), Andy Wisner ([andy@fbc.org](mailto:andy@fbc.org)), Steve Bateman ([steve@fbc.org](mailto:steve@fbc.org)).