

Discussion Guide: July 21, 2024
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Message: *Baptism and Communion*
Series: *The Heart Behind It*

PRIMARY PASSAGES:

Romans 6:1-12 (CSB) - What should we say then? Should we continue in sin so that grace may multiply? Absolutely not! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Or are you unaware that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too may walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in the likeness of his death, we will certainly also be in the likeness of his resurrection. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be rendered powerless so that we may no longer be enslaved to sin, since a person who has died is freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him, because we know that Christ, having been raised from the dead, will not die again. Death no longer rules over him. For the death he died, he died to sin once for all time; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So, you too consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, so that you obey its desires.

Ephesians 1:13-14 (CSB) In him you also were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and when you believed. The Holy Spirit is the down payment of our inheritance, until the redemption of the possession, to the praise of his glory.

Matthew 28:18-20 (CSB) Jesus came near and said to them, “All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Galatians 2:20 (CSB) I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Ephesians 4:1-6 (CSB) Therefore I, the prisoner in the Lord, urge you to walk worthy of the calling you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope at your calling— one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

1 Corinthians 11:23-32 (CSB) For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, and said, “This cup is the new covenant in my

blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

1 Corinthians 11:27-32 (CSB) So, then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sin against the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself; in this way let him eat the bread and drink from the cup. For whoever eats and drinks without recognizing the body, eats and drinks judgment on himself. This is why many are sick and ill among you, and many have fallen asleep. If we were properly judging ourselves, we would not be judged, but when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined, so that we may not be condemned with the world.

MESSAGE HIGHLIGHTS

- We are tempted to make our “Life-**CHANGING** moments” our “Life-**DEFINING** moments.” You don’t have to be defined by what has happened **TO** you or been done **BY** you, but can and should be defined by what Jesus has done **FOR** you!
- Baptism and Communion are wonderful gifts from God that remind us of our identity in and connection with Christ.
- Baptism is an outward symbol of an inward change.
 - A Visible Demonstration
 - An Obedient Proclamation
 - A Joyful Inclusion
- Communion is an outward celebration of an inward reality. It’s a celebration that is both personal and communal and reminds us to show the same mercy, grace, and love to others that Christ showed us. When taking Communion it’s important to recognize Christ’s sacrifice on your behalf, examine your life and confess any known and unrepentant sin, and thank God for the gift of his forgiveness and grace.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some of your life-changing moments that you love to think about and remember? What are some life-changing moments that are painful?
2. In what ways are you tempted to make the life-changing moments of your past or present become life-defining moments for you as you move into the future?
3. Why is it important to not be defined by what has been done **TO** you or **BY** you, but by what Christ has done **FOR** you?
4. Jesus commands his followers to be baptized and to baptize others. Why is baptism such an important spiritual practice for all believers to participate in and how has or might your own baptism help you remember your identity in Christ? What, if any, questions do you still have about baptism?
5. Reread the Message Highlights about Communion. What has been your experience with participating in Communion and how God has used it to build and strengthen your faith?

PRAYER

Father, thank you for the gifts of Baptism and Communion. Jesus, thank you for your sacrifice on our behalf that made the forgiveness of sin and new life in you possible. Thank you Holy Spirit for bringing us into Union with Christ. Help us to live our lives defined by our identity in Jesus and may we show others the same kind of sacrificial love that Jesus showed us. Amen.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- <https://www.gotquestions.org/Spirit-baptism.html>
- <https://www.gotquestions.org/receive-Holy-Spirit.html>
- <https://www.gotquestions.org/washing-of-regeneration.html>
- <https://www.gotquestions.org/communion-Christian.html>