

MORE: Identifying

Sermon Series : MORE
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IDENTIFYING: Baptism & Communion

Being a follower of Jesus means being a part of something bigger than our individual selves. Baptism and communion are sacred experiences that represent both the individual inward commitment to a personal relationship with Jesus and the corporate outward declaration of being connected to a local community of Christ followers—the local church.

In Baptism:

1. We symbolically die to our old self and are raised anew.
(Col 2:11-12, 13-15; Rom 6:3-7, 12-14, 17-18, 22-23)
2. We are washed clean (Acts 22:16; Ananias to Paul)
3. We experience spiritual equality.
(Eph 4:1-6; 1 Cor 12:12-14; Gal 3:26-28)
4. We count the cost (Luke 14:25-34)
5. We express our participation in Christ's community that is not of this world.
6. We imitate Jesus (Luke 2:21-22)
7. We are obeying the command of Jesus.
(Matt 28:18-20; Acts 2:37-39)
8. We are immersed in the Trinity.

Three primary barriers to baptism:

- Pride
- Fear
- Lack of understanding

QUESTIONS

1. How would our lives look different if we really believed that baptism is that dying to our old self and living a new life?
2. In baptism we experience spiritual equality. Baptism creates a unity that goes above the natural differences among us. What are some inequalities you see in the world in which we live? Do you see inequalities within the church? What freedom would it give you to believe that we are all equal?
3. If you have been baptized, what did you feel it cost you? If you haven't, is it partially because there is a cost attached for you that you are struggling with?
4. If you are working through these questions by yourself, find someone to ask about their baptism experience. If you are in a group, share your stories with one another. Talk through the things that stop us or prevent us from stepping into the water!

See also this week's Application Questions
in the *MORE Scripture Guide* e-book @
<http://www.gracechapelonline.org/morepdf>