

Baptism – Joined Together and Set Apart

Baptism portrays our being joined together with Christ and His body and being set apart from sin and for God.

1. Baptism portrays our being joined together with Christ.

a. Romans 6:1-5

- b. We are connected with Christ in his death, burial, and resurrection.
- c. Union with Christ, which is demonstrated in baptism, means we have fellowship with God. John Owen: “Christ, then, is the foundation of all our communion with God...The knowledge that God and man can live in fellowship together is hidden in Christ.”
- d. Baptism pictures the spiritual reality that we receive the benefits of Christ’s life, death, and resurrection. Here are a few:

- I am reconciled to God (2 Corinthians 5:18)
- I am redeemed and forgiven (Ephesians 1:7-8)
- I am a child of God (1 John 3:1-2)
- I am a saint (Ephesians 1:1; Philippians 1:1)
- I am Christ’s friend (John 15:15)
- I am a citizen of Heaven (Philippians 3:20)
- I have eternal life (John 5:24; 1 John 5:11-13)
- I have received the Spirit of God (1 Corinthians 2:12)
- I have been made alive with Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- I am a temple of God (1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19)

Baptism portrays the wonderful truth of our union with Christ, particularly in his death, burial, and resurrection.

2. Baptism portrays our being joined together with Christ’s body.

a. 1 Corinthians 12:12-13

- b. Baptized individuals are professing they are joined to Christ’s body.
- c. Being part of the church invisible and visible is a necessary component of being a Christian:

John Stott: First, I am assuming that we are all committed to the church. We are not only committed to Christ, we are also committed to the body of Christ. At least I hope so. I trust that none of my readers is that grotesque anomaly, an un-churched Christian. The New Testament knows nothing of such a person.
- d. Thousands of years millions and millions of Christians have shared in this demonstration of their connection to other believers.

Baptism enacts our connectedness with all other believers and with WLA believers specifically.

3. Baptism portrays being set apart from sin.

- a. **Colossians 2:11-12**
- b. **1 Peter 3:21**
- c. In baptism, we are reminded of the work of Christ which cleansed us from our sins and freed us from the power of sin. This forgiveness of sin and release from its bondage is what enables us to be reconciled to God. We are joined to Christ and joined to his body, but we are separated from the power and punishment of sin.

Baptism reminds us of our victory over sin given to us by Christ's work at Calvary.

4. Baptism portrays being set apart to God.

- a. **Romans 6:11-14**
- b. Baptism is a seal marking you as one of God's children and as such, you are an instrument of righteousness following God's instruction in obedience. You have been set apart as God's.

Baptism is a dramatic expression of our separation to God.

Baptism is a portrayal of our union with Christ, our union with Christ's body, our separation from sin, and our separation to God. But ultimately, what this symbolism indicates, is that baptism is fundamentally and foundationally a portrayal of what Jesus has accomplished.

Luke 12:50 - I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished!

Baptism portrays the atonement – the great and glorious work of Christ in his life, death, and resurrection on behalf of unworthy sinners that we might be redeemed from sin and reconciled to God.

Baptism is a declaration that Christ is glorious!

- Improve your baptism!
- Be baptized!
- Believe in Jesus!