

March 8th, 2020

What is Baptism?

If you have been baptised, why did you get baptised? What was the experience like for you?

What is the difference between a sacrament and an ordinance?

Sacrament: An action, that when you take, God gives you grace.

Ordinance: Is an action that is a symbol of God's grace.

What does it mean for baptism to be a sacrament? What does it mean for baptism to be an ordinance?

Read 1 Corinthians 1:13-17 NIV

13 Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized in the name of Paul? 14 I thank God that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, 15 so no one can say that you were baptized in my name. 16 (Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don't remember if I baptized anyone else.) 17 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

What does this reveal about Paul's understanding of whether baptism is a sacrament or an ordinance? Why is that?

Luke 23:39 - 43

39 One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!"

40 But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? 41 We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong."

42 Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.[d]"

43 Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

What does this show us about whether baptism is a sacrament or an ordinance?

Romans 6:3-4 NIV

3 Don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

What does this show us about what baptism represents?

What does it mean to identify with Christ’s death and resurrection?

In what way do you die and experience resurrection when you give your life to Jesus?

Why is it important to be baptised?

Read Matthew 28:18-20 NIV

18 Then Jesus came to them and said,

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.

Read Acts 2:37-38, 41

37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

38 Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.

41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that *day*.

In these passages, what do we find about the order one must repent and one must be baptized?

What does it mean to repent?

Why does baptism come after repentance?

Why doesn't baptism count if someone else has you baptised?

Part of baptism is making a public declaration that you are following Jesus. Why is that important?

What were your thoughts about the life and baptism of Rifqa Bary?

How did it illustrate the importance of baptism?

What were your thoughts about Christina and Brandon's story and baptism?