

Members' Handout - Colossians 2:6-15

Series: The Gospel Made Visible



1. What does Paul instruct and warn the Colossians about?

2. In this passage, Paul explores how we are joined or united to Christ. Highlight or underline the portions in the text where Paul refers to our unity in or with Christ. What do these portions reveal about what we have gained in Christ?

3. According to this passage, what does baptism represent and what implications does it have for us?

4. Jesus commands us to make disciples of all nations, "*baptising* them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (Matt 28:19) Considering what baptism represents, what does Jesus' command for baptism reveal about what he desires for us to remember as we follow Him?



5. What are some things that are marred by sin or suffering you wish you could press a 'reset' button on? How do you usually deal with the sense of disappointment or failure in these areas 'according to human tradition' (v8)?

OR

Read Romans 6:3-4. What are some areas of your life that belong to the 'old life' or worldly/sinful self that we struggle to let go of?



6. Consider the areas of sin or suffering that we struggle with. How does our union with Christ as represented by baptism encourage us or give us hope?



7. As a CG, read "Truth that Makes Us Sing" Q40: What is Baptism? Share any stories about your experience during your baptism or what moved you to be baptised: how might these experiences remind us of what Jesus has done for us?

40 What is baptism?

ANSWER

Baptism is the public declaration of our repentance from sin and faith in Christ. It signifies that we have been united with Christ in his death and resurrection, have been forgiven of all our sins, have received new life in Christ, and belong to the Lord and his church.

REFERENCE *Romans 6:3-4*

DEVOTION

In the great commission, Jesus said, "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 all that I have commanded you." Jesus expressed that one aspect of discipleship is to baptize those who believe, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Baptism is important because it is a command and ordinance given by Jesus to be followed as part of making disciples until he returns again.

While the word baptism in Greek means to dip or immerse, the physical act is an emblem of something more substantial to our faith. Baptism symbolises to the world that while our faith unites us deeply with Christ, our baptism is an outward expression of that union. The imagery of baptism, being immersed and raised, is a precious reminder of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. It is meant to strengthen our faith in him and encourage us to walk in the "newness of life" (Rom 6:4).

Baptism is not only for the Christian but also for the church. When Jesus' death and resurrection sealed the new covenant replacing the old, there was a shift of emphasis from circumcision to baptism. The shift also meant that the gospel is now available for gentiles in addition to Jews. In the

new covenant, membership in God's family does not come from ethnicity or genealogy, but through a new spiritual birth proclaimed through baptism.

In other words, baptism is not simply for the individual believer, but for the family of God and the local church, a mark of belonging to the people of God.

PRAYER

Dear heavenly Father, help us to understand what the newness of life means. Thank you for what Jesus has done to secure the new covenant of love. We are one in the family of God. Let our lives declare that beyond the outward demonstration of baptism.

SONG

There Is One Reason
by Doug Plank