



Baptizing in the Name of Christ

Christian First Principles #8

OPEN (5-10 minutes)

Describe a rite of passage you've personally experienced (driver's license, graduation [from kindergarten, high school, college, boot camp, etc.], marriage, retirement, etc.).

DIG (20-25 minutes) **Read Acts 2:36-39; Romans 6:1-4; 1 Peter 3:18-22**

1. What does it mean to be baptized "in the name of Jesus" (Acts 2:38)? Simply saying, "in Jesus' name?" A continuation of Jesus' ministry and mission? Something else?
2. In what ways are your baptism and Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection similar (Rom 6:1-4)? In what ways are they different?
3. In what ways are your baptism and the flood of Genesis 6-8 similar (1 Pet 3:18-22)? In what ways are they different?
4. Explain the old Polish proverb: Conscience is the voice of the soul.

REFLECT (30-35 minutes)

1. Describe a time when you were "cut to the heart," like the people in Acts 2. If you've never been cut to the heart, why not?
2. How important is it for Christians to experience being cut to the heart? What is gained by such an experience? What is lost when the experience is absent?
3. What commands does Scripture issue in Acts 2:38? Are you obeying those commands?
4. What promises does Scripture offer in Acts 2:38-39? Are you leaning on those promises?
5. What does it mean to "die to sin" (Rom 1:2)? We no longer sin? We no longer desire to sin? We no longer find pleasure in sin? We no longer admit that we sin? Something else?
6. To what extent have you died to sin since your baptism?
7. To what extent are you living a new life since your baptism?
8. Jesus switched places with you by taking your place on the cross. How well are you taking Jesus' place here on earth as Christ's ambassador (ref. 2 Cor 5:19-20)?
9. The Holy Spirit inspired Peter to declare that baptism is what now saves us (1 Pet 3:21)? So, what would you say to someone who believes baptism is important, but not necessary?
10. How important is it for you to stand before God on Judgment Day with a clear conscience?
11. How is it possible to commit sin with a clear conscience (ref. 1 Tim 4:1-2)?
12. How can you train your conscience? With treats? With Scripture? With prayer and humility?

PRAYER TIME - Praise God for the new life and purpose He's given you through baptism in the name of Christ. Ask God to help you die even more to the life you lived prior to baptism.