

Believer's Baptism
January 26th, 2020 – Pastor Nick Neves

*Due to the abundance of people being baptized today, First Service attendees will be hearing an abbreviated version of this sermon. To hear this sermon in its complete form, please visit www.firstfamily.us and click on 'sermon media' under the 'resources' tab.

What are some of the sacramental signs that the Israelites were commanded to carry out in the Old Testament? What meanings did they communicate?

In the New Testament there are only two sacraments that God commands His people to partake of:

COMMUNION declares that Jesus is the perfect _____ who offered His body and blood to pay for the sins of His people.

BAPTISM declares that those who trust in Jesus are _____ with Jesus and with His church.

This morning we will consider three facets of the sacrament of baptism.

Baptism's EXAMPLE

Jesus is the first example that we should consider.
(see Matthew 3:13-17) Why was His baptism so unusual?

Observations that we can make from the examples laid out in scripture:

- Those who were baptized were old enough to respond to the _____ of the Word. John did not command people to bring their infants to the Jordan to be baptized.
- All who were baptized were baptized _____. The sacrament of Communion was to be practiced regularly, but sacrament of baptism marked a new beginning.
- Every baptism we see in scripture is performed in the same manner – the person being baptized is _____ in water.

Baptism's IMAGERY

What is the difference between a SIGN and a SYMBOL?

Romans 6:3-4 teaches that the physical object lesson of baptism describes a picture of _____, _____, and _____. Jesus Christ experienced these things *literally*; His followers experience them *spiritually*.

- Baptism illustrates that _____ died for us.
- Baptism illustrates by faith _____ have died to our old way of life.

Baptism is rightly understood to be a public, External Expression of an internal change. It is declared out loud, usually at the very beginning of one's journey with Jesus, and it need not be repeated.

Baptism's FUNCTION

Does baptism have a regenerating effect? NO! Our sins are not washed away by water, but by the blood of the Lamb. (see Romans 5:9, Ephesians 1:7-10, Ephesians 2:12-13)

How do baptism and circumcision differ?

***Baptism's function is not to regenerate the believer, but to declare the regeneration of the believer to the world. Therefore, baptism is _____ in nature. It is not optional, but also is not the instrument that saves.**