



Sunday, July 2, 2023
Parkway Baptist Church, Rev. J. Derek Futrell

July Memory Verse: *“There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, on God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.” Ephesians 4:4-6 (ESV)*

Series: You & Me & Jesus (01)

Title: The Great Commission & Baptism

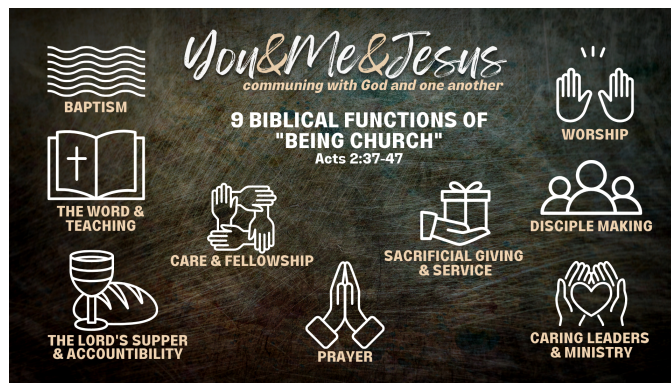
Scripture: Acts 2:41-47; Matthew 28:18-20; Ephesians 4:15-16; Psalm 96; Matt. 3:13-17; Romans 6:3-14;

What is church? Church is an assembled group of people saved (called out) by God who:

1. Hear, read, study, memorize, meditate, proclaim, and do the Word of God.
2. Practice the Ordinances of the body of Christ (Baptism & The Lord’s Supper).
3. Are accountable to one another for Holy Living and the Great Commission.

What makes a group of people a church? (How is a church different from any other group of people on the planet)?

- The Biblical functions of church make a group of people the church:



- Baptism came as the first response to believing the gospel. (Acts 2:41-47)
- Jesus gave the church the Great Commission. (Matt. 28:18-20)
- The Great Commission is not a new idea. (Psalm 96)
- Jesus was baptized, modeling for us obedience to the Father. (Matt. 3:13-17)





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Why is baptism so important to do as Christians? (Romans 6:3-4)

- Our baptism is the first sermon we preach as believers. It is our personal picture of the death and resurrection of Jesus.
- Our baptism is our first step of obedience. It is the beginning of our personal practice of following Jesus.
- Our baptism is our first reminder of what is dead in us. It is the beginning of putting away the practice of sin in our lives and living under grace. (Rom. 6:5-14)

The Who, What, When, Where, and Why of Baptism

1) Who...

- Who gave us Baptism?
 - God. This practice is commanded by Jesus. Matt. 28:18–20
- Who is baptized?
 - Those who have by their own free will put their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Romans 6:4

2) What...

- What is baptism?
 - Baptism is the way Christians publicly announce their faith in Jesus Christ. Matthew 10:32
 - The word for baptize in the New Testament is “immersion”, meaning being immersed in water.

3) When...

- When is baptism done?
 - As soon as believers in Christ have trusted Jesus as their Savior and Lord, they follow through with believer’s baptism (this is the pattern of the New Testament). Acts 2:41; 8:36; 16:14–15, 33

4) Where...

- Where should believers be baptized?
 - Fellow Christians should publicly baptize new believers in front of other followers of Christ wherever they gather. Matt. 18:20

5) Why...

- Why should believers be baptized?
 - Jesus was baptized. Matt. 3:13-17
 - Jesus commanded that we go and baptize. Matt 28:16-20



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The Meaning of Baptism:

- 1) **Identification with Jesus in His death and resurrection. Union with Christ.**
- 2) **Pictured Purification of sin.**
- 3) **Incorporation into the Body of Christ.**
- 4) **Proclamation of the Gospel.**
- 5) **Worship of God.**

What the reformers & mainline denominations say about baptism:

- Martin Luther: "I would have those who were to be baptized to be entirely immersed as the word imports and the mystery signifies."
- John Calvin: "The word 'baptize' signifies 'to immerse' (to put under water). It is certain that immersion was the practice of the ancient church."
- John Wesley: "We're 'buried with him (Christ) in baptism' alluding to the ancient manner of baptizing by immersion. Just as Christ was raised from the dead so we also will be raised by the same power will rise again, this is what our very baptism represents."
- The Catholic Encyclopedia: "The biblical form of baptism was unquestionably immersion...in the Catholic Church immersion seems to have prevailed until the twelfth century."