

Baptism – 5/23/10

Welcome to our Baptism Celebration

This is a different service for us, but always a great joy; This weekend is no exception
61 people getting baptized – 22 students and 39 adults

People who are standing up to say – “This is who I am; This is who I follow; This is
what God has done in my life;” People for whom Jesus is Lord/Savior of their lives

In fact, baptism, in and of itself, is a picture of that

It’s a picture of salvation

Without ever saying a word, each baptism is a picture of their death *to* sin, and Christ’s
death *for* their sin

And a picture of their new life *in* Christ, b/c of Christ’s life in them

Like when Paul says in Rom 6 that we’ve been *baptized into Christ Jesus*, so that we
might walk in newness of life

He’s saying that we’ve been saved, *baptized into Christ*, brought under his influence –
so that we could and would, live the life we’ve been given

That’s what baptism pictures – our salvation, and the resulting newness of life

So by being baptized, each and every person is picturing outwardly, what has *already*
taken place inwardly

That they’ve been forgiven of their sin through repentance, and assured of eternal life
through faith

It’s a picture of salvation

It’s an expression of belief

B is one of the main ways in the Bible, for us to say publicly, that we believe personally
That we believe in Jesus; That we believe his Word; That we trust him by faith

Over and over again you find statements in the Bible like . . .

When they believed . . . they were baptized (Acts 8:12)

And those who received his word were baptized (Acts 2:41)

Why? Why were they baptized? To declare their belief; To declare their faith in Jesus

So by the very act of being baptized, each/every person is expressing their belief in Jesus

Their faith that he has secured their future, and their trust that he has forgiven their sins

It’s an expression of belief

It’s a declaration of identity

That we are a Christ follower – a disciple of Jesus

Having been united with him, each and every person is saying – “I’m his, and he’s
mine; I’m in him and he’s in me; I’m his child and he’s my Lord”

That’s what each and every person is saying by being baptized

“Jesus is Lord of my life, and I’m not ashamed to declare it” (Doug in tank)

It’s a declaration of identity

So get ready to rejoice w/ these guys, at the work of grace that God has done in their lives