

2 Peter

3:17-18



What Makes A Beautiful Church?

2 Peter 3:17-18

A photograph of a church interior during a service. The scene is viewed from the back of the sanctuary, looking down a central aisle towards the altar. The church has high ceilings, arched windows with colorful stained glass, and rows of wooden pews. Many people are seated in the pews, some with their hands raised in praise or prayer. The lighting is warm and soft, creating a peaceful atmosphere. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image in a large, bold, black serif font.

**A beautiful church has
FAITHFUL baptized
members who grow in
grace.**



1. Be Faithful to Glorify God.

Revelation 19:7-8

Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure"—for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.



**Faithfulness is a Natural Partner to
Christ's Love.**

2. Be Faithful To Keep From Falling

Thomas Schreier

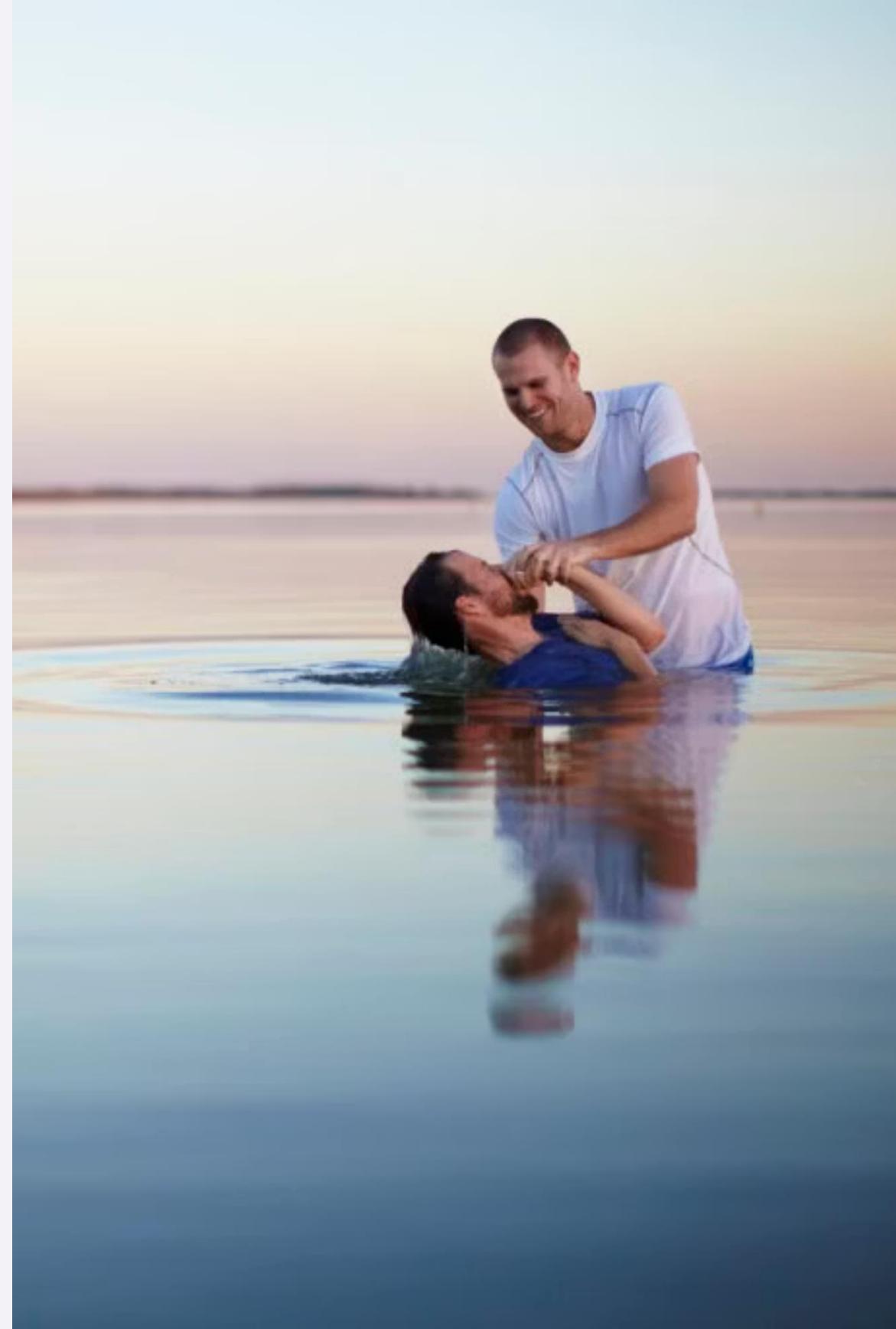
| Believers maintain their secure position by heeding warnings, not by ignoring them.



2. Be Faithful to Grow in Grace

Acts 2:41

So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.





Acts 2:42

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Means of Grace

Means of Grace are the ordinary, Christ-appointed practices—Word, prayer, and ordinances—through which the Holy Spirit applies and strengthens grace in believers, always through faith and never automatically.

The Means of Grace

Word

Prayer

Baptism

Lord's Supper

Membership



God gives more grace when we are faithful in the ordinary means of grace.

Every year I do a sermon on Baptism and Membership.

Why do Baptist churches have a church covenant?

Church Covenant - Part 1

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on the profession of our faith in Him, having been baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, we do now in the presence of God, angels and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.



Church
Covenant

Church Covenant - Part 2

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love, to be mutually submissive to one another, to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness and comfort, to promote its prosperity and spirituality, to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines, to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the needy, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.



Church Covenant - Part 3

We also engage to maintain family and private devotions, to train our children in the fear and admonition of the Lord, to seek the salvation of our family and acquaintances, to walk circumspectly in the world, to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, exemplary in our deportment and to abstain from every appearance of evil, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the Kingdom of our Savior.

Church Covenant - Part 4

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love, to remember each other in prayer, to aid each other in sickness and distress, to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech, to be slow to take offense always ready for reconciliation, pursuing it without delay.

Church Covenant - Part 5

We further engage, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to love the Lord our God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength, and to strive to obey Him in all things and to grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Church Covenant – Part 6

We moreover engage that when we remove from this fellowship, we will as soon as possible unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principals of God's Word.

A man in a white shirt and dark pants is baptizing a woman in a body of water. The woman is wearing a light-colored dress and has her arms crossed. The man is standing in the water, holding the woman's hands. In the background, a crowd of people, including men, women, and children, are watching and clapping. The scene is set outdoors, possibly at a church or a community center, during the day. The overall atmosphere is solemn and celebratory.

Application:

**Be a faithful baptized
member**