

# SACRAMENTAL LIVING

Pastor Bill Bowers | May 27, 2018

## *Come to The Water*

**Scripture:** Matthew 3:1-6; 13-17

He that, out of contempt, will not be baptized, shall be condemned as an unbeliever, and shall be reproached as ungrateful and foolish. For the Lord says: 'Except a man be baptized of water and of the Spirit, he shall by no means enter into the kingdom of heaven. (John 3:5)' And again: 'He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved but he that believeth not shall be damned. (Mark 16:16)' <sup>1</sup>

### **What is baptism?**

(Galatians 3:26-27; Romans 6:3-4; Colossians 2:12; 1 Peter 3:20-21a)

- Baptism is a **one-time event**.
- It's a **public welcoming** into a **community of faith**.

John Wesley (17th century founder of Methodism) said, "By baptism we enter into covenant with God...By baptism we are admitted into the church, and consequently made members of Christ, its head." <sup>2</sup>

### **How do we baptize?**

- **Step 1: Repent**. (Matthew 3:6; Acts 2:38)
- **Step 2: Respond in obedience**. (Acts 22:16)
- **Step 3: Fill out** a *Staying Connected* card.
- **Step 4:** Invite your **friends and family**.

**Next Baptism Service: Sunday, June 10** (at the Summer Kickoff BBQ)

<sup>1</sup> "What Did Early Christians Believe about...?" <http://www.bible.ca/H-baptism.htm>

<sup>2</sup> Rowell, Jeren. *Thinking, Listening, Being: a Wesleyan Pastoral Theology*. Beacon Hill, 2014. (pp. 142-143)

## HOMEGROUP & PERSONAL STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What is your understanding of a “Sacrament?”
2. What do you think about Jesus’ commandment to be baptized (in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit)? Have you thought of baptism as optional?
3. A sacrament is also called a symbol. The Greek word for symbol is *symbolon*, meaning “together, thrown.” What do you think is being thrown together in the participation of the symbol or sacrament?
4. Why do you think Christians are baptized? What happens when a Christian is baptized?
5. John Wesley called acts of spiritual formation, especially participation in the Sacraments, “a means of grace.” A means of grace meant in the act, there was the possibility of encountering the real presence of God. Can you share of a time where you experienced God’s presence or grace when participating in one of the Church Sacraments?
6. At any time in today’s teaching were you moved to question or remember your baptism? If you have not been baptized, did you sense a desire to be baptized? If you have questions about baptism or a desire to declare your faith and devotion to Jesus through baptism, please contact Pastor Jeff Borden by email at [jborden@mountainviewlife.org](mailto:jborden@mountainviewlife.org) or call (360) 943-0795.