

CORNERSTONE

DISCIPLESHIP

GROUPS

Why Water Baptism?

Sunday, November 23, 2025

Pastor Andrew Burns

HOUSEKEEPING & ANNOUNCEMENTS



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CHRISTMAS AT CORNERSTONE! The schedule is online now - be sure to mark your calendar as you won't want to miss anything!

There will be another Baptism Sunday, February 8. If you would like to be baptized, please reach out to the church staff or register online.

OPENING PRAYER

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. Baptism is not required for salvation - We are saved by grace through faith alone (Ephesians 2:8)
2. Baptism is a command for believers - It's part of the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20)
3. Baptism is a public declaration- It symbolizes identification with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection
4. Baptism should soon follow salvation - Throughout Acts, believers were baptized immediately after receiving Jesus
5. Baptism is powerful - It's an outward sign of an inward spiritual reality

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The sermon emphasized obedience as a response to what Jesus has done, not forced compliance. In what other areas of your life is God calling you to obedient action as a response to His grace?

Understanding Salvation and Baptism

- Read Ephesians 2:8-9 together. Why is it important to understand that baptism doesn't save us? What problems arise when we add works to salvation?
- Pastor Andrew mentioned that some people don't get baptized because of "theological confusion." What questions or confusions have you heard (or had yourself) about baptism?
- Read Acts 16:30-33 (the Philippian jailer story). What strikes you about the urgency and timing of this baptism? What does this tell us about the early church's view of baptism?

The Meaning of Baptism

- Read Romans 6:3-4 and Colossians 2:11-12. How does baptism symbolize death, burial, and resurrection? What does it mean practically to "walk in newness of life"?
- Pastor Andrew described baptism as similar to wedding rings - they don't make the marriage but symbolize the commitment. How does this analogy help you understand baptism better?
- Why do you think God designed baptism as a physical, public act rather than just a private spiritual decision?

Personal Reflection

- For those who haven't been baptized: What has held you back? After this sermon, how do you feel about taking this step?
- The pastor mentioned several reasons people delay baptism:
 - Theological confusion
 - "I'm not ready" or "I need to clean up my life first"
 - Not understanding what it means
 - Not wanting to be seen wet
- Which of these resonates most with you or people you know? How would you address these concerns?

CALL TO ACTION

Choose one or more of these action steps for the week:

- If you've never been baptized, pray about taking this step and talk to a pastor or group leader
- If you were baptized as an infant or by sprinkling, prayerfully consider whether you should be baptized by immersion
- Share your baptism story (or salvation story) with someone this week

Meditation Exercise:

Romans 6:4 - "We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life."

CLOSING PRAYER

- Pray for anyone in your group considering baptism
- Thank God for the salvation we have through faith in Jesus alone
- Ask God to help each person "walk in newness of life"
- Pray for boldness to publicly declare faith in Jesus
- Thank God for the transformation He has worked in each person's life
- Pray for the service this morning and all those who will come!

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