

In our text for this week, we see Peter pointing his audience toward the significance of baptism. It is because of our union with Christ that we are able to suffer, and it is because of this same union that we will stand secure in the midst of God's judgement. Baptism as we will see ... is an outward demonstration of an inward union with Christ.

## Sermon Outline:

### 1 Peter 3:18-22 (I'm with HIM)

#### What is baptism?

- A rite of passage, a symbolic event that illustrates our inner transformation.

#### WHO should be baptized?

- Everyone who believes in Jesus for their salvation.

Jesus, his disciples, new converts in the early church were all baptized in water.

#### HOW should someone be baptized?

- Immersion in water
- Greek word - baptizo
  - Dip, dunk, immerse

Jewish people were accustomed to using this Greek word to describe ceremonial cleansing of the body and immersion in water.

#### What is the SIGNIFICANCE of baptism?

- It is a way to publicly demonstrate and proclaim your union to Christ.
- Romans 6:3-4 (baptism points to Christ's burial and resurrection)

**1 Peter 3:18** – Through our union with Christ our sins are atoned.

- Jesus was our substitute.

**1 Peter 3:20** – Through our union with Christ we are saved from God's judgement.

- The ark represents the cross, which saves us from wrath.

**1 Peter 3:22** – We are united through baptism to a risen saviour who is seated at the right hand of God and ruling in power.

- Baptism is our opportunity to say "I'm with Jesus"
- One day we will stand before God and Jesus will say ... "he/she is with me!"

## GET TO KNOW YOUR GROUP QUESTION

- Who is the most famous person that you know personally? If they saw you, would they recognize you?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**Preamble** – *please read aloud*. Many people have opposing views on the method, meaning, and mode of baptism. Our goal in this discussion is to come to a better understanding of the true meaning of GENUINE BAPTISM (the inward one) and the significance of the external ritual (the outward one). If you are part of the group and have never been baptized as an outward sign of your union with Christ ... listen to the stories of others and join the dialogue to learn more.

1. Have you been, or were you ever, baptized in water? Share your story.
  2. What significance does that event hold for you personally? (Was it something you wanted to do, or something that someone did for you?)
  3. What might total submersion or "wet everywhere" communicate to others about what God has done inside a person?
  4. In 1 Peter 3:18 we are reminded that through baptism into Christ we have a substitute for our sins. How might this knowledge change the way we respond to others who sin against us?
  5. In 1 Peter 3:19 we see Noah and his family saved from the judgement of God for sins. How might our baptism continually remind us that God's judgement passes over us because of our union with Christ?
  6. In verse 22 we discover that through baptism we are united to a risen saviour who rules and reigns. In what way could a person remind himself/herself of this when (like Noah) they are surrounded by evil and difficulty?
- Pray together.

## Additional Reading / Devotions:

- Acts 22:16, Acts 8:36-38 (**why wait?**)
- Colossians 2:12, Romans 6:3-4 (**connected to Christ**)