

# baptism: identifying with Christ

ross van niekerk



# what is baptism?

*The act of commitment to Jesus Christ which initiates a person into Christ's community.*

- It is a sacrament (oath): an outward visible sign of an inward, invisible grace, as it affirms our fidelity to Christ Jesus our Lord.
- It is an ordinance: We do it because Jesus ordained (commanded) us to do it.

# Christ's example and command

## **matthew 28:19**

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...

## **matthew 3:13**

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him.

# why be baptized?

## initiation into a new life

- union with Christ
  - *death to sin, God's wrath*
  - *resurrection and life*
  - *reign over sin*
  - *sonship, inheritance*
- transfer of loyalties
- seal of covenant with God

# why be baptized?

initiation into a new future in a new  
community

## galatians 3:27-28

For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

[see also 1 corinthians 12:13]

# why be baptized?

it affects our lives

- the one being baptized: a monument
- the church:
  - *reminder*
  - *acceptance*
  - *edification*
  - *outreach*
- the other witnesses: the visible gospel sermon demanding a personal response

## **romans 6:3-10**

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 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. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

## **romans 6:3-10**

We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God.

# what do you need to do to be baptized?

## acts 8:35-37

Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to [the Ethiopian]. Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?" Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."







