# Baptism

## Common Ground

How would you know someone loves you?

There are many things you'd hope to see such as kind words, a willingness to serve, giving gifts, etc. But you'd also expect this person to show their love in front of other people as well. You'd be dubious of somoene's love if they were only affectionate in private.

In the same way, if we love and follow Jesus, we will publically proclaim our faith in baptism.

## What is Baptism?

- Baptism is an outward sign of an inner transformation

  - Going down into the water symbolizes the person dying to their old life, identity, guilt and shame
  - Coming out of the waters symbolizes the person being raised from the grave as a new person with a new life and new identity, washed clean from their past

  > Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.
  >
  > Romans 6:3-4

In this way, baptism is both a funeral and a wedding; it's a funeral for the old self that's left behind and a celebration of the new life following Jesus. Like a wedding, baptism is a public celebration and profession of love and loyalty in front of friends, family, and the world.

## Why Should I Be Baptized?

1. To publicly proclaim our faith

   - Just like a wedding, we are publically, officially, and unashamedly giving our lives to Jesus
   - Our faith is personal but not private

2. Jesus commands it

- The Bible doens't teach baptism as an option but commands it as part of discipleship

> Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."
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> Matthew 28:18-20