

NOTES

WHY BAPTISM MATTERS

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GALATIANS 3:26-29

Saved through _____

Union with _____

Entry into _____

Belonging to _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS & GROUPS

1. ICE BREAKER: Describe a significant milestone from your past. What did you do to mark it?
2. Read Galatians 3:26-29 out loud. Give the group 2 minutes to quietly mark up the passage or jot down observations they make. Have them note especially any repeating words or ideas, anything that they find striking, and any questions the passage brings up for them. After a few minutes, start your conversation by letting each person share an observation and what they think about it.
3. Why do you think God gives us physical symbols and ceremonies like baptism and communion?
4. Why do we use water in baptism? What does it symbolize? What biblical stories does the image of water connect with (Pastor Clayton gave a few key ones in the sermon)? How do those stories deepen the meaning of baptism?
5. Look at Galatians 3:26-29. Find all the mentions of someone being in/with/to Christ. What does it mean that we are "baptized into Christ"? How would you explain the idea of "union with Christ" to someone?
6. In the sermon, Pastor Clayton said that if you are united with Christ, "the most important thing about you is not you." How is that different from what the world tells us? How does that change how you feel about yourself?
7. If we are united with Christ, all that belongs to Christ is shared with us. What kinds of things does that include?
8. What is a covenant? If we are in a covenant with God, what does that mean about our relationship with him?
9. Imagine a friend said, "My parents baptized me when I was a baby, but I see your church doesn't baptize infants. Why don't you do that?" How would you explain it to them?
10. Baptism does not just represent our union with Christ; it also shows our union with other Christ-followers. Look at Galatians 3:26-29 again. What barriers between people does baptism bridge? How does it do that?
11. If it is true that all who are baptized are one in Christ, what should you do to encourage unity within our church?
12. If you have not been baptized, what is holding you back? What would keep you from being baptized at our next baptism at Christ Community Church?
13. PRAYER PROMPT: Go to Christ Community Church's online prayer wall at cclife.org/prayer. Go around the group at least once and have each person pray for one request. Make sure everyone in the group clicks, "I prayed for this," after you pray for each request.