

Begin Anew

Belonging with Meaning

January 20, 2019

1. *...Jesus himself was baptized. As he was praying, the heavens opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on him in the form of a dove. And a voice from heaven said, "You are my beloved Son, and I am full pleased with you."* (Lk. 3:21-22).

2. *Who should be baptized and when and how?*

3. *Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit".... With many words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day* (Acts 2:38-41).

4. Here's why we baptize by immersion:

1. Because of the Greek word used for baptism in the NT – "baptizo" – which means – "to dip" or "to immerse."

2. Because it is the example of the Scriptures that believers were baptized in bodies of water – into which they went – and out of which they came.

3. Because baptism identifies us with Jesus – who died but then came back to life again.

5.



6. *Who should participate in communion - and how and when?*

7. *A man ought to examine himself before he eats the bread and drinks the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks condemnation on himself* (1 Cor. 11: 28-29).

8. *"...if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift"* (Mt. 5:23-24).

9. Do you see the connection between us being *forgiven* by God and *forgiving* each other?

10. Here are two questions we can ask every time we take communion together:

1. Is there anything in my life that needs to be confessed and forgiven?
2. Is there anything between me and another member of the body of Christ that needs to be dealt with?

11. *He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed (Isa. 53:5).*

12. *For I received from the Lord what I also passed onto you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes (1 Cor. 11:23-26).*

13. *For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority. In him you were also **circumcised**, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the **circumcision done by Christ**, having been buried with him in **baptism** and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.*

14. *When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us: he took it away, nailing it to the cross (Col. 2:9-14).*

15. Questions for self-examination for communion:

1. Is there anything in my life that needs to be confessed and forgiven?
2. Is there anything between me and another member of the body of Christ that needs to be dealt with?