

Baptism

An outward expression of an inward reality.

Dead to sin and alive in Christ.

A public profession of faith.

An important step of obedience to Jesus.

The sentiment of a full surrender is something that we cannot do on our own.

We are in need of God's grace and forgiveness in order to live holy lives.

Holiness does not come by not doing sinful things, it comes by becoming more like Jesus; surrendering our will to God that his will would be our desire.

When we repent of our sins and believe in Jesus, something special happens. We are changed in an instant from a condemned sinner to a blameless person. This is called **imputed righteousness**. 2 Corinthians 5:21 says, "For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (Emphasis mine). We have judicially received a right standing before God because of our faith in him. We are new creations in Christ. God makes us alive in him. This is not something we have the ability to do.

The progressive growth in godliness in a Christian's life is called progressive sanctification which is God **imparting righteousness** to us. This is the Holy Spirit's work in our life to transform us. Transformation happens when we surrender and give the Holy Spirit the reins on our lives. Walking in step with the Spirit (Galatians 5:16) is surrender. Walking in step with the Spirit is Abiding in Jesus (John 15:4-5). As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, neither can we unless we abide in Jesus. He is the Vine.

Publicly professing your faith is a testimony to God's grace in your life and is a step of courage in proclaiming the gospel of Jesus to many. The wrath of God was upon you but because of God's grace you now have a right standing before God. This is called the great exchange. Jesus took on the wrath of God for all of sinful humanity and we gain his perfection by faith.

It's not fair. It is the upside down kingdom gospel.

Identify with it. Surrender to Jesus.

Give yourself fully to Christ and see what he does within you.

It is a testimony to your family, to our church community, and, primarily, it glorifies God.

We encourage you to pursue baptism.

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