

“Repent & Be Baptized”:
Baptism and Mound Free Church
Sermon Notes

- **The life-blood of our 2020 Vision is conversion growth, and conversion growth is best measured in the waters of baptism**

**The ordinance of Christian baptism is...*

1. ...built upon the _____ of the _____ of _____ himself (Matthew 3:13-17; Philippians 3:9; Luke 12:50; Mark 10:38)

2. ...an illustration of our immersion into _____ with Christ and _____ with one another (Ephesians 4:5; Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:12; 1 Corinthians 12:13; 1 Corinthians 1:13-17; Galatians 3:27-28)

3. ...the _____ of _____ that a Christian is called to yield to Jesus (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 2:36-41; 8:12, 26-40; Acts 10:44-48; 16:11-15, 25-34; 18:8; 19:1-6; 1 Corinthians 1:16; 1 Corinthians 16:15)

So...

Next Week: MEFC Kids' Music Camp Performance!

MEFC Community Group Study Questions
For the week of August 5th – 11th

Getting Started

1. If you know Jesus, share a little bit with the group about the circumstances surrounding your baptism. If you were baptized as an infant (but not yet upon profession of faith), paint a portrait of your convictions for the group. If you know Christ but have not yet been baptized, explain that as well.

Digging Deeper

2. Our church's 2020 Vision includes the goal of baptizing 50 new believers by January 2020. Over the last 3 ½ years, we've baptized five. In view of our recent average Sunday morning worship gathering attendance (about 100), do you see a disparity here? Why, do you think, has conversion growth been so slow in our fellowship? What can we do about it?

Open Your Bible to Matthew 3:13-17...

3. Read carefully through the account of Jesus' water baptism in Matthew 3:13-17. How many observations can you make as a group? What questions do you have of this passage? In Luke 12:50 (long after his water baptism), Jesus speaks of a baptism yet ahead for him. What sort of baptism is it? How do you know (see Mark 10:38)?

4. In Ephesians 4:5, Romans 6:3-5, and Colossians 2:12, is Paul referring to water baptism or baptism into union with Christ? What makes you so sure?

5. 1 Corinthians 12:13 connects baptism and local church membership (see the context of vv.12 and 14). We currently don't make a practice of immediately conferring covenant membership upon baptismal candidates. Should we? Can you think of a good reason for a newly baptized person *not* to become a covenant member of our church? Explain.

6. Picture the church fellowship as a grand house. If the Lord's Supper is a meal that takes place in the dining room, then baptism can be compared to the front door. Is there a circumstance where an unbaptized Christian should take part in the Lord's Supper (i.e. should one enjoy the privileges of the dining room if they haven't actually entered through the front door)? If yes, why? If not, why not?

7. Neither the EFCA Statement of Faith nor our MEFC Church Covenant demand that our members submit to believers' baptism upon profession of faith. Is this something that strengthens or weakens us as a fellowship? Why?

8. The rule of thumb in our church is “if you led them to Christ, you get to baptize them.” Do you think this is a healthy practice? Why or why not? While a pastor is always present to officiate one of our baptisms, we don't believe that Scripture requires that he actually be the person to administer each baptism. Is this wise? Explain your answer. How does the fact that neither Jesus nor Paul made baptizing people a central part of their ministry contribute to this discussion (John 4:2; 1 Corinthians 1:14-17)?

9. Close your time as a group by praying for and strategizing concerning your 'Lists of 5'. Though the new birth (and thus a candidate for baptism) is a miracle, how might we better position ourselves as 'midwives' for this miracle?