

## Baptism

### Why is Baptism Important?

- Baptism is a Commandment
  - Commanded by Jesus in Matthew 28:19-20 "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them..."
  - Commanded by the Apostles in Acts 2:38 "Repent and be baptized...in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins"
- Baptism Follows Conversion
  - Acts 8:12 "When they believed...they were baptized" Acts 18:8 "many...who heard him believed and were baptized"

### What Does Baptism Symbolize?

- Your participation in the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ: Romans 6:3-5
- A public declaration of your new life in Christ: Galatians 3:26-28
- The washing away of your sins: Acts 22:16
- The separation from your own life: 1 Peter 3:20-21; 1 Corinthians 10:1-2; Colossians 2:11-13
- Being under authority: Matthew 28:19 "in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit"

### How is a Person Baptized?

- Baptism means to "immerse"
  - All New Testament examples of baptism describe going into the water: Mark 1:10; John 3:23; Acts 8:38

### What About Being Baptized More Than Once?

- There are 2 reasons to be "re-baptized":
  1. If you were not a Christian when you were first baptized
  2. If you were sprinkled and want to be immersed to identify with Christ

### When Should a Believer be Baptized?

- Immediately after receiving Christ: Acts 8:12; Acts 8:36-37; Acts 9:18; Acts 16:33

## Communion-

Mark 14:22-26:

<sup>22</sup>While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take it; this is my body." <sup>23</sup>Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, and they all drank from it. <sup>24</sup>"This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many," he said to them. <sup>25</sup>"I tell you the truth, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it anew in the kingdom of God." <sup>26</sup>When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

The Church has been remembering and worshipping the Lord Jesus Christ through Communion for over 2,000 years. It has been the climactic act of worship for the church since her inception. At The Avenue Church we join with thousands of years of Church history by making Communion the culmination of our worship services. It is a communal, not an individual, act of worship that we engage in to celebrate the sufficiency of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is our cause for celebration each week. As John Westerhoff has said:

*"The Lord's supper has a victorious redemptive focus more than a somber one. The early Christians celebrated their sacred meal on Sunday—The Lord's Day, the day of victorious resurrection. Those who gathered around The Lord's Table might have been sinners, but they were redeemed sinners."*