



Children's Guide to Baptism

What Does the Bible Say About SIN?

Sin is the act of disobeying God. For example, if we know if God does not want us to tell lies, and we lie on purpose, we sin.

Read **James 4:17**.

Sin is missing the mark, like missing a bullseye. Anytime we don't do something God wants us to do, or if we do something God doesn't want us to do, we sin. Sin leaves a stain that nothing can remove. However, when we are baptized in Him the stain can finally be removed forever. We are now made clean, just like Jesus. We can still sin, but we can ask God for forgiveness. When we do that, we are made clean once again. **Galatians 3:27** says, "for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ."



Who Has Sinned?

Romans 3:23 states: "For _____ have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

Romans 3:10 states: "As it is written:

'there is ___ _____ righteous, not even one;
there is ___ _____ who understands,
_____ who seeks God.
_____ have turned away, they have together become worthless;
there is ___ _____ who does good, not even _____.' "

This verse talks about the good that we can do on our own. Without God, we can't do every much good at all.

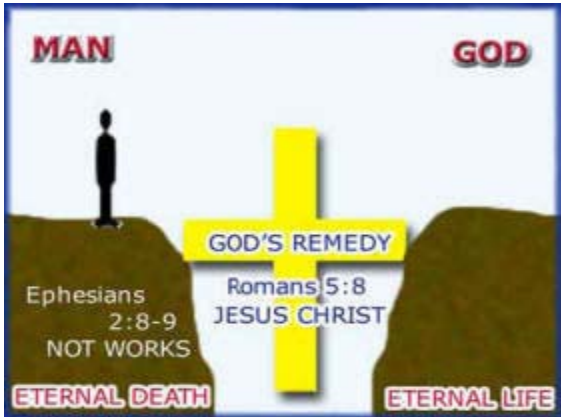
Read **1 John 3:4**.

What Happens When We Sin?

When we sin it hurts God. When we sin we make something more important than God. God gave us rules for two very good reasons: to **protect** us and **provide** for us. Sin is harmful and God wants to **protect** us from the damage that sin does. God knows that when we obey Him, He can **provide** peace, safety, and joy. God's gives

us rules because He loves us, not because He wants to be a big bully or mean.

Sin also separates us from God. It makes a gap between us and God. The only thing that can bridge that gap is Jesus. It doesn't even matter how much good we do.



The only thing that can bring us closer to God is Jesus.

Read **Ephesians 2:8-9** and **Romans 5:8**.

Jesus is able to bridge the gap because he died for our sins on the cross. Jesus was the perfect sacrifice. **2 Corinthians 5:21** says, "God made him who had no sin, [Jesus] to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

You can read about Jesus' death and resurrection in **Matthew 27:32-28:10**. But Jesus can't be our bridge until we have a personal relationship with Him. We have to get to know Him. We can do that through reading the Bible, praying, and learning about Him at church. Through learning, we can accept who Jesus is and what He did for you. All that must happen before we can take the next step: baptism.

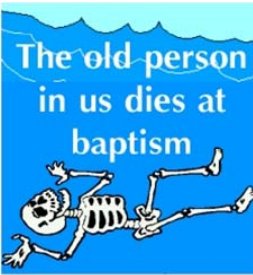
Baptism

Read **Mark 16:16**. What two action words does Jesus link with the word “saved”?

Read **Acts 2:38**. What two things did Peter tell his listeners to do if they wanted their sins to be forgiven and to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit?



The pool of water we are baptized in is supposed to represent a watery grave. We go under the water to wash our sins away and to let the old person, the person that we were, die. There is nothing magical about the water, but when we come up out of the water God creates a new person. This new person has a new heart and has the Holy Spirit living inside them.



The Holy Spirit helps to guide and comfort us. Read **Romans 6:4** and **Colossians 2:12**. We need to know that it is not baptism alone that saves us. Again, there is nothing magical

about the water. What is very important is that the person being baptized has made a commitment to follow Jesus and to begin his/her life as a Christian.

One of the biggest reasons why we are baptized is because Jesus was. If we want to be like Jesus, we should do what He did and follow his example. You can read these passages to better understand: **Matthew 3:13-17**, **Romans 6:1-14**, and **John 3:23**.

Common Questions:

Why should I be baptized?

For the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit (**Acts 2:38-39**) Also as a Christian or follower of Jesus, we should follow His example. Jesus himself was baptized, so we should too. When we are baptized, we are covered by Jesus' blood, so that when God sees us, He just sees His own Son.

What happens after I am baptized?

The Holy Spirit will live in you. He will act as your guide to help you to be more like Jesus. You can now take part in communion to remember the sacrifice that Jesus made for you.

Am I ready?

All you need is to believe that Jesus is God's Son and that He died for your sins; believe that Jesus also is risen from the dead. You also need to realize that this is a lifelong commitment, like marriage. This is a serious thing. Pray about it. Ask your parents questions, and then make an appointment with Ben.

Where can I read about baptism in the Bible?

Jesus gets baptized, **Matthew 3:13-17**. Philip and the Ethiopian, **Acts 8:26-46**. Paul baptized an entire family, **Acts 16:34**. Jesus and Nicodemus, **John 3:21**.

Can I talk to a minister?

If you've discussed baptism with your parents, have reviewed the scriptures listed in this booklet, and you think you're ready for baptism, make an appointment with Pastor Ben, our Children's Minister. Together, we'll make sure that you understand everything you have read. Then we can make arrangements for your baptism!

Do I have to go in front of everyone?

No, you don't have to be baptized in front of the church on a Sunday morning. Arrangements can be made to baptize you at your convenience.

Communion



Communion is the act of remembering Jesus' sacrifice on the cross for you. It is a serious time, and a reverent time. You can pray for forgiveness of sins, that you would honor Him during that time, and thank Him for the sacrifice that He made for you.

Read **1 Corinthians 11:17-34** and see what Paul has to say about communion.

You can read the gospel accounts of the last supper. That is where we get the idea for communion. Communion is a reenactment of what Jesus did with His disciples.

Read **Matthew 26:17-30**, **Mark 14:12-26**, and **Luke 22:7-38**.

The Emblems



There are items that you will have as you take communion. The bread (or cracker) and juice. Each one of these is a symbol of Jesus. The bread or cracker represents Jesus' body. The juice represents Jesus' blood. Paul talks about this symbolism in **1 Corinthians 10:16-17**.

When can I take it?

First, you have to be baptized. Baptism shows an outward commitment to God. It also shows that you know and understand Jesus' death for your sins.

We believe that the early church took communion at least once a week, and especially on Sundays. Read **Acts 20:7** ("break bread" is another way to say communion). Anytime believers get together they can take communion.

After reading **1 Corinthians 11:17-34**, it is appropriate if you are not in the right mindset to not take communion. It is better to not bring judgment on yourself than to take the communion lightly.

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