

Steve Whitacre
SESSION 2 | Baptism & Communion

I. INTRO

II. BAPTISM: THE SIGN OF BEGINNING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

What is baptism?

“Becoming a Christian is not a private act. Personal, yes, but never private.” Bobby Jamieson, *Going Public*, 35.

What does baptism mean?

- A public profession of faith and repentance
- A sign of forgiveness and cleansing
- A sign of union with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection
- A sign of new life in Christ
- A sign of the gift of the Holy Spirit
- A sign of the dawning new creation in Christ

– Bobby Jamieson, *Going Public*, 44–49.

Who should be baptized?

How should they be baptized?

When should they be baptized?

Do I have to be baptized?

III. THE LORD'S SUPPER: THE SIGN OF CONTINUING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

What is the Lord's Supper?

What does the Lord's Supper mean?

- It symbolizes and reminds us of Christ's death
- We participate in the benefits of Christ's death
- It supplies spiritual nourishment
- It pictures the unity of believers in the church
- It provides an opportunity for reflection

– adapted from Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, 989–91

Who should take the Lord's Supper?

How should we take the Lord's Supper?

How often should we take the Lord's Supper?

“We'll see that baptism and the Lord's Supper are effective signs of church membership: they create the ecclesial [church] reality to which they point. Baptism binds one to many, and the Lord's Supper makes many one.” Bobby Jamieson, *Going Public*, 17.

IV. COMMON QUESTIONS

At what age will we baptize children at SGCL?

Can I be baptized if I am too nervous to read my testimony in front of the church?

I think my child should be baptized, but he or she is not eager or is unwilling. What should we do?

My child wants to be baptized, but I am not sure he or she is ready. What should we do?

I was baptized as an infant. Should I be baptized again?

I want to get baptized. What should I do?

V. CONCLUSION

“The amazing truths of passing through the waters of judgment safely, of dying and rising with Christ, and of having our sins washed away, are truths of momentous and eternal proportion and ought to be an occasion for giving great glory and praise to God. If churches would teach these truths more clearly, baptisms would be the occasion of much more blessing in the church.” Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, 969