



## Baptism Sunday

May 27, 2018

MARKS OF A  
*Missional Church*  
A STUDY OF FIRST THESSALONIANS

## The Family of God

1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

May 27, 2018

### Understanding Baptism

*Here at Grace, we always want you to understand what we do and why we do it. Here's a brief introduction to baptism presented as answers to frequently asked questions . . .*

#### **Does baptism save a person?**

No, salvation is by God's grace alone, through faith alone, in Jesus Christ alone (Eph. 2:1-10). Baptism symbolizes outwardly what has already happened inwardly when a person puts their faith in Jesus.

#### **Who should be baptized?**

Those who realize that Jesus Christ lived the life that they should be living and died the death that they deserve. Those who repent of (turn from) their sins and trust Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins and the gift of eternal life.

#### **Why should I be baptized?**

- A person should be baptized because Jesus commands us to be baptized (Matthew 28:19).
- A person should be baptized to publicly proclaim their faith in Jesus Christ, so that the Church can celebrate together with them and so the world will know of our identification with Jesus Christ (Acts 8:38).

#### **How can I be forgiven and come into a life-changing relationship with God through Jesus Christ?**

Repent of (turn from) your sins and your self-reliance and put your trust in the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 16:31)! Realize that you're a great sinner, but that Jesus is a Great Savior. Repentance and faith must happen inwardly, but they can be expressed outwardly through a prayer something like this:

*Lord Jesus Christ, thank you for dying for my sins, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and trust you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.*

#### **Who can I talk to about a relationship with God and/or baptism?**

Any one of our campus staff or elders would consider it a privilege to talk with you about spiritual matters of the soul and/or baptism. We are here to serve you and desire to help any way we can. Just contact your campus staff by phone or email.

### Message Notes

## The Family of God

May 27, 2018  
1 Thessalonians 5:12-28  
Growth Group Week 8 of 9

Growth Groups are the glue that holds our church together. Growth Groups are groups of 6 - 12+ people that meet together during the week to process and apply the message, pray together, care for another, and live life together. If you are interested in joining a Growth Group, go to [gracecentralcoast.org](http://gracecentralcoast.org).

### **Connecting & Caring Together (about 20 min.)**

If you have not done so already, share your individual Summer plans. Also, brainstorm some ideas about how you can celebrate and recreate as a Growth Group family this Summer.

(Ideas: Serve together, BBQ, Beach Day, 4th of July Fireworks, Birthdays, Game Nights, Hikes, Camping, etc... Get creative!)

### **Grappling with God's Word Together (about 20 min.)**

1. Baptism Sundays are amazing and meaningful Sundays at Grace! What were your personal takeaways from the service? How were you touched, moved or challenged?
2. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28 together as a group. What strikes you about this portrait of local church life?
3. How did our Baptism Sunday express and embody the spirit and thrust of these verses?

4. Paul makes it clear that the church is a family. Is that the way you see it? What does that mean to you? What are the characteristics of healthy, God-honoring, still-broken families?
5. 1 Thessalonians 5:14-15 is a call to "tailored care" for all God's people who are broken in different ways. In what ways are you involved in care like this? In what ways do you see it happening at Grace?
6. Rejoicing. Praying. Giving thanks. Which of the three is your strongest? Which is the weakest? Since all the verbs are plural in these verses, how can your group grow in these practices together?

### **Praying Together (about 20 min.)**

- Pray together for those baptized on Sunday that baptism might be a catalyst to galvanize and grow their faith. Pray together that many more people might be saved and baptized at Grace Central Coast.
- Pray for the deep and wide growth of Grace Central Coast as we seek the Lord and the type of life together to which He calls us.