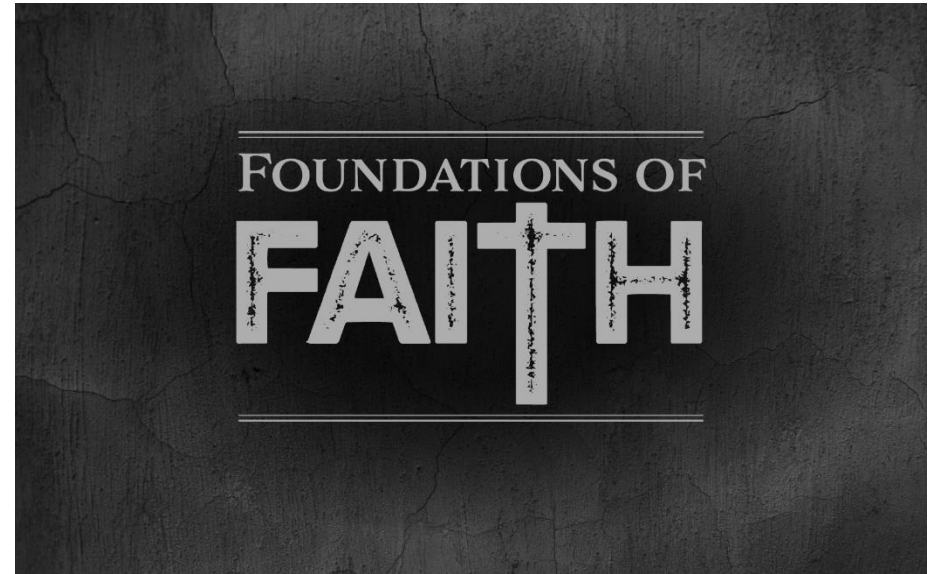


Questions for Personal Reflection

1. Is there anything new you learn about baptism from the sermon? Is there anything you hadn't thought of before?
2. Did Pastor Kory's explanation of the role of ritual in life help you understand baptism better? If so, how?
3. How have you treated baptism in the past? How well did you understand its significance?
4. Which metaphor for baptism (cleansing from sin, dying with Christ and raised to new life, entry into the people of God) is most meaningful for you?
5. How can the ritual of baptism take a more active role in your faith?



Baptism

“Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father the Son and the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you...”

--Matthew 28:19

Baptism is both _____ and _____.

Baptism is a _____: a practice _____ by Jesus himself.

Baptism is a _____.

Why are Rituals Important?

Modern people tend to view humans as _____ on a _____.

We are formed more by our _____ and our _____ than we are by our intellectual input.

We like to learn with our _____, but our bodies wear the _____.

We become what we _____.

We must be _____ about our rituals.

How Religious Rituals Shape Us

1. They help us _____ what is most important.

Baptism is the formalized way of expressing your faith in the atoning _____, _____ and _____ of Jesus Christ.

Baptism's 2 Metaphors

- _____ from _____. (1 Cor 6, Heb 10:22)
- _____ with Christ and _____ to new life! (Gal 2:20, Eph 2:4-5)

2. They form our identity by reminding us of our _____.

We form our _____ by patching together selective _____ from our lives.

- Baptism, as a part of our _____, is us a tangible reminder of who we are.
- We must be careful to avoid _____. (1 Sam 15:22, Matthew 23:23)
- Baptism without _____ is useless.

A baptism is a _____ event.

- It is the _____ most important even in the life of a believer.
- It _____ believers of our own baptism.

3. They bind _____ together.

Baptism has always symbolized entry into the _____ of _____.

What story does baptism tell about us?

"We're not all that _____, but we serve a _____ who is."

It is only when we _____ to our old self that we can be _____ again and reconciled to God.