

Sermon Outline

BAPTIZED NATION

BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST (GALATIANS 3:25-29)

I. The Baptized Nation

II. “But Now That Faith Has Come...” (Gal 3:25)

- A. “Faith” (*pisteōs*) here is shorthand for God’s system of salvation.
—“Justification by *faith* alone in Christ Jesus alone.”
- B. Before faith came, the Jews were under the guardianship of the law.
- C. So now that we have received God’s righteousness by faith, we are no longer under the curse of the law.

III. In Christ, We Are God’s Sons through Faith (Gal 3:26)

- A. By putting faith in Christ, we become God’s sons.
- B. The phrase “For in Christ” emphasizes that we are God’s sons because we share in Christ’s sonship.

IV. Those Baptized into Christ Have Put on Christ (Gal 3:27)

- A. This text invites four questions from us.
 1. What is baptism?
 2. What does “baptized into Christ” mean?
 3. How does being “baptized into Christ” relate to “putting on Christ”?
 4. How does “baptized into Christ” relate to our faith-union with Christ?
- B. What is baptism?
 1. “To baptize” (*baptizō*) is “to wash,” “to cleanse,” and/or “to immerse.”
 2. In a religious context, baptism was washing with theological significance.
—It symbolized being cleansed by God (Ex 40:30; Lev 8:6; 14:8; 15:5, 8, 27; 16:26; 17:15; Num 19:7).
 3. John the Baptist baptized people to prepare them for the arrival of the Kingdom of YHWH (Mt 3:6).
 4. In Judaism, many things were baptized, even kitchen utensils and furniture (Mk 7:4).
 5. The community of Jesus took over baptism from Judaism as a symbol of cleansing—but minus the baptism of inanimate objects.
- C. What does “baptized into Christ” mean?
 1. In 1 Corinthians 10:1-2, the Israelites were “baptized into Moses.”
 2. In addition to “cleansing,” baptism also had the connotation of “being identified with someone.”
 3. Baptism into Christ means being joined/identified with Christ.

- D. How does being “baptized into Christ” relate to “putting on Christ”?
1. Baptism into Christ means receiving Christ’s identity.
—Baptism into Christ *is* “putting on Christ.”
 2. Galatians 2:20: The *I*—our personal desires and ambitions—is no longer the determining factor in what we do. Christ is now our Life and Lord.
 3. Summary: To be “baptized into Christ” and to “put on Christ” means to have Christ as our New Identity, Self-Image, Dignity, Significance, and Life.
- E. How does “baptized into Christ” relate to our faith-union with Christ?
1. The act of baptism by itself does not save us.
 2. Only when we put our faith in Christ (either before or after our baptism) can we view *our* baptism as the objective sign and seal of *our* union with Christ.
- F. Here is a summary of 3:25-27:
1. Now that salvation by faith in Christ has been revealed, we are no longer under the curse of the law (v 25).
 2. By putting our faith in Christ, no matter how frail that faith is, we are united to Christ for life and share in the sonship of Christ (v 26).
 3. When our baptism is accompanied by faith in Christ, our baptism may be viewed as the visible sign of our union with Christ (v 27).
 4. When we are baptized into Christ, we put on Christ as our new identity (v 27).

V. **The Results of Our Being Baptized into Christ Jesus (Gal 3:28-29)**

- A. Because we have been baptized into Christ...
1. We are one people with others who have been baptized in Christ (3:28).
 2. We are now considered Abraham’s offspring (3:29).
- B. In Christ Jesus, we are God’s new human society and his new temple (Eph 2:22).

VI. **Bowing to Our Baptisms**

Now that we have been baptized into Jesus Christ, we must receive the holy Reality that is behind our baptism, the Reality of God’s New Order, and accept that Christ is our new overruling Identity.

- A. We must receive the Reality behind our baptisms: Christ and the New Order of God.
- B. We must accept that Christ Jesus is now our new governing, overruling Identity.
1. Christ over me: “I am not the ruler over my own life. Christ is.”
 2. Christ over my work: “My career does not define who I am. Christ does.”
 3. Christ over my family: “My family does not always come first. Christ does.”
 4. Christ over my gender: “My gender is does not determine my worth as a person. Christ does.”
 5. Christ over my race: “My race/culture does not decide my values. Christ does.”
 6. Christ over my nation: “The state is not my first lord. Christ is.”