



Part 1: Shift

Pastor Grant Fishbook
October 11 & 12, 2008

In the middle of a crisis, God calls his children to consider the question, "What's right with the world?"

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. – *Philippians 4:8*

What's right with the world?

God is transforming lives.

Baptism is a public declaration of
a deep association with Jesus Christ.

How do we baptize?

With water (baptizo – a common Greek word that meant "to wash")

...then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. – Acts 8:38

Who do we baptize?

Anyone who has a personal relationship with Jesus and has been prompted by the Holy Spirit to be obedient to the command of Jesus.

Those who accepted his message were baptized... – Acts 2:41

Why should I be baptized?

1. To follow the example of Jesus

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." – *Mark 1:9-11*

2. To publicly declare my faith in Christ

"Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven." – *Matthew 10:32*

(Continues on back)

3. To publicly identify with the death and resurrection of Jesus

Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin — because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. — *Romans 6:3-7*

4. To obey the command of Jesus.

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” — *Matthew 28:19-20*

Next Steps

Alpha – Monday Nights, 6-8 PM in the Meeting Place
Fear and Anxiety Workshop – Saturday, October 18

On your way home:

Why do you shower? What does your daily ritual of washing do to your understanding of what you observed in church today?

Small Group Discussion Questions



- 1) Make a list of all the things you can think of that are wrong with the world. Which item on the list are you most concerned about?
- 2) Now flip the question and make a list of what's right with the world. Which item on the list is the most encouraging to you?
- 3) Read Philippians 4:8 again. How do you balance focusing on the right things with living in reality? Can you do both at the same time?
- 4) What parts of the Easter story can you find in the act of baptism? Why does that matter?
- 5) Have you ever been baptized? Why or why not?
- 6) How can we pray for you tonight?