



**LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS
for the Week of August 10, 2025**

WE BELIEVE
One Baptism for the Forgiveness of Sins

1. When were you baptized, and what does your baptism mean to you?

Has your understanding of baptism changed since the day you were first baptized? If so, how so?

2. The Nicene Creed states: “*We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.*” What do you think this means? Is water baptism a necessary prerequisite for the forgiveness of sins, or for our salvation?

If not, why should we even bother with it? What is the point of Christian baptism?
(Cf. Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 2:38-39; Rom. 6:3-4.)

3. Protestant Christians typically practice two sacraments: *Baptism* and *Communion*. How would you personally define or explain the meaning of a “sacrament?”
4. In the Nicene Creed we confess our belief in four ways: **1)** We declare our belief in “One God, the Father Almighty, the Maker of heaven and earth;” **2)** We declare our belief in “One Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God;” **3)** We declare our belief in “the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of life;” and **4)** We declare our belief in “One holy catholic and apostolic church.” How do you personally feel about confessing your belief in the church in the same breath and with the same conviction as confessing your belief in the Holy Trinity? Is this difficult or challenging for you? Why or why not?

5. Today many people insist that they love Jesus, but they also readily admit they cannot stand the church. Why do you think this is so often the case?
6. Do you think it matters to Jesus whether we love, support, and belong to the church? Read the following Scriptures, and jot down a few notes after each passage:

John 21:15-17:

Acts 9:1-5:

Ephesians 5:25-27:

Revelation 1:10-11; 19-20:

7. When we are baptized, we are baptized into the Body of Christ (**cf. 1 Cor. 12:12-14**). So Christian baptism is not merely personal; it is also profoundly communal. Why do you think God designed it this way?

How would you respond to someone who says they would consider being baptized, but only if it could be done in a private, individual ceremony, unrelated to a public worship service made up of a community of Christian believers?

8. According to Luke, Jesus himself was not baptized in a private ceremony with only John the Baptist presiding. Rather, he says: “When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too” (**Luke 3:21**). What is so significant about Jesus’ willingness to stand in solidarity with sinners and “the worst of the worst” at his baptism? What do you think God is trying to tell us here?
9. **Read Galatians 3:26-28.** For the ancient church, Christian baptism meant the breaking down of all the walls of social status, gender, and race that once divided them! The church was Christ’s New Community of forgiven and redeemed sinners. Perfect people need not apply! Only those who know they are broken and who need the healing touch of a merciful Savior. In light of this, how do you think the Lord feels when we intentionally ignore, or exclude, or reject certain people from our Christian gatherings or Life Groups “because they’re different, and not like us”? (**cf. Luke 14:12-14, 16-23**)