

I am a church member – I will publicly identify with Jesus

10/12/19

Intro

- Series on church membership
- Don't misunderstand!
- Church is for everyone
- We want everyone to come
- We are excited for you to be here as you explore your faith
- **Up front:**
 - our goal is to lead you to a personal relationship with Jesus
 - To see you publicly identify with Jesus through baptism
 - To see you move from being a spectator to a participant
- Church membership is more than just showing up - commitment

The First Pledge - I am a church member.

I am a church member:

I understand that membership is the kind of membership given to us in 1 Corinthians 12. I am needed. I will serve. I will give. I will tell people about Jesus. I will strive to grow in my relationship with Christ.

The Second Pledge - I will protect the unity of the church

I am a church member:

I understand that Jesus said that the world needs to see that we are one so they will believe the message of the cross of Christ. We may have different preferences, but I am willing to focus on what we have in common instead of our differences. Relationships are more important than my rights.

The Third Pledge - I will not expect my church to be perfect

I am a church member:

I realize that the church is made up of people who are not perfect, so the church will not be perfect. I am a work in progress and so is the person sitting next to me. God is working in all our lives to make us more like Jesus, so I will be patient and show others the grace God has shown me.

The Fourth Pledge - I will see my church as a place to invest in others

I am a church member:

I realize that the church is a family to belong to. I will be purposeful about building relationships, supporting my church family and praying for my church leadership so each member can grow in their walk with Jesus.

The Fifth Pledge - I will commit to the mission

I am a church member:

I will commit to know Jesus and make Him known while living, loving and serving like Him.

- **Why are we here?**
 - Why do we exist as a church?

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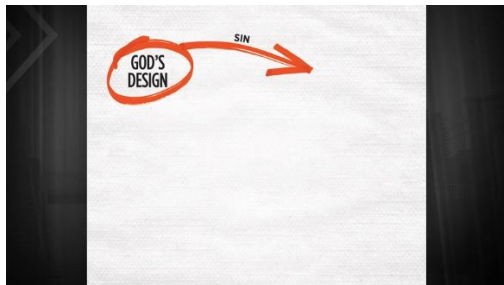
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We must give our lives to Jesus

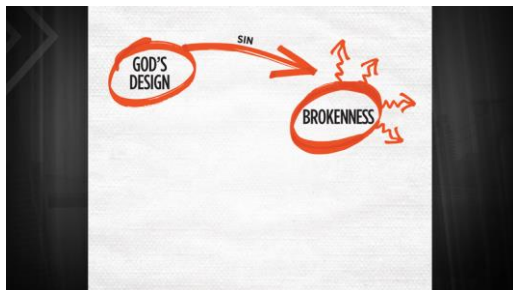
3 Circles



- God has a design for our lives
- We can see God's design all around us
- God personally designed you and has a purpose for your life



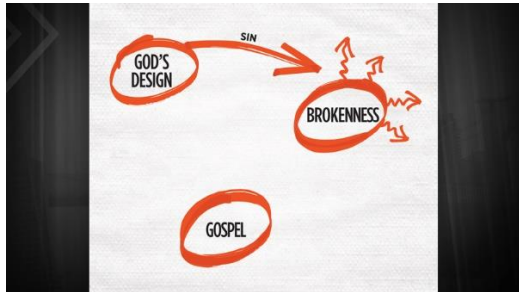
- Problem – even though we may know God's design
- We don't always accept it or appreciate it
- We want to do it our way, be our own boss
- **Departing from God's plan is called sin**
- Rom 3:23



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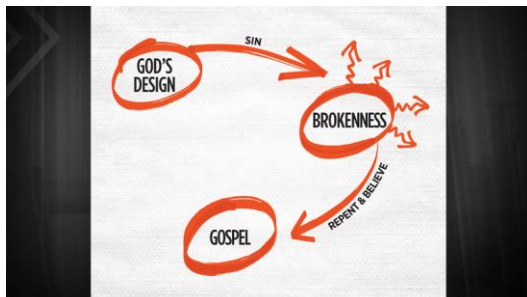
- Sin leads to brokenness
 - Broken relationships
 - Depression
 - Addictions
 - Loneliness
 - Emptiness
 - Guilt
- We see this everywhere in our world



- Gospel – good news

God took all of our sins and put them on Jesus, and in a supernatural way puts Jesus' righteousness on anyone who places their faith in Jesus.

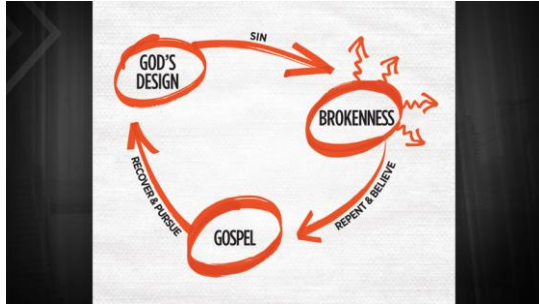
- We are no longer broken in God's eyes



- All we have to do to get in right standing with God is to repent and believe
- Repent - Change of mind and change of direction
- Believe – the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus

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- Once we do that we begin to recover and rediscover God's design for our lives

What Should I Do?

Now that you have heard this Good News, God wants you to respond to Him. You can talk to Him using words like these:

My life is broken — I recognize it's because of my sin. I need You.

I believe Christ came to live, die and was raised from the dead — to rescue me from my sin.

Forgive me. I turn from my selfish ways and put my trust in You.

I know that Jesus is Lord of all, and I will follow Him.

The Bible says:

"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9).

"For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" (Romans 10:13).

We must first give our lives to Jesus

We need to be baptized

- **WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?**

1. Jesus commands us to be baptized.

Matthew 28:19-20

¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you...

2. It is pleasing to God.

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10/12/19

Mark 1:9-11

⁹ It came to pass in those days *that* Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ And immediately, coming up from the water, He saw the heavens parting and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove. ¹¹ Then a voice came from heaven, "You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

3. We should be baptized to show that we are not ashamed to be publicly identified with Jesus.

Matthew 10:32-33

³² "Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. ³³ But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

4. It is the answer of a good conscience toward God. (1 Peter 3:21)
5. Jesus gave us the example to follow. Did Jesus need to be baptized??? (Mark 1:9-11)

WHAT IS BAPTISM?

Baptism provides a way for those who have been saved to publicly identify with Jesus' death, burial and resurrection.

- i. In the Old Testament the Jews identified with God through circumcision.
- ii. Students identify with their schools by wearing school spirit clothing
- iii. **Married couples wear wedding rings as an outward symbol of an inner commitment.**

Baptism is an outward symbol of an inward experience.

1 Peter 3:21 NIV further illustrates this point.

21 and this water **symbolizes** baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

- The key word to this passage is symbol

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10/12/19

- This is defined as a representation, pictorial illustration...
- Without this word the verse would imply that baptism saves us, but this is not the point that Peter is making. He is telling us that the water is symbolic of what happens when we get saved.
- He further states that it is “not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God.”
- **We are a picture society!**

Baptism is a PICTURE of our salvation for the world to see!

WHO CAN BE BAPTIZED?

1. Only those who have been saved may be baptized.

Acts 8:36,37

³⁶ ... What hinders me from being baptized?” ³⁷ Then Philip said, “**If you believe with all your heart**, you may.”

Acts 2:41

⁴¹ Then those who gladly **received his word** were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added *to them*.

2. Why don't we believe in infant baptism?

- a. Acts 8:36,37 tells us that before a person can be baptized they must first believe. An infant does not have this capability.
- b. Acts 2:41 – those who gladly receive His word were baptized

Romans 10:9,10

⁹ that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

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Infant baptism represents the parent's faith, but not the child's faith.

Romans 14:12 tells us that
“we must each give account of ourselves before God.”

HOW SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

1. “Baptize” – literally translated means “to immerse, to place in a body” (i.e. – water)
- Jesus went into the river to be baptized.

Mark 1:9-10

⁹ ... Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized by John **in the Jordan**.

¹⁰ And immediately, **coming up from the water**, He saw the heavens parting and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove. ¹¹ Then a voice came from heaven, “You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

- When the Ethiopian eunuch was baptized,

Acts 8:38 states that “**they went down both into the water**”.

³⁸ So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch **went down into the water**, and he baptized him.

Romans 6:3-4 shows baptism as representing a burial.

³ Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?

⁴ Therefore **we were buried with Him through baptism into death**, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

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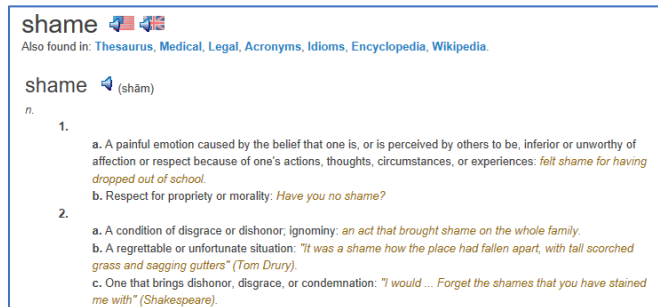
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We must first give our lives to Jesus

We need to be baptized

We worry way too much about what people think!

- Too often we don't talk about Jesus because we worry about what they may think
- There is a word for that...SHAME



Rom 1:16

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

You will never experience God's power in your life as long as you are ashamed of God.

- Whoa! I am not ashamed of God!
- Do you talk about Him to your friends?
- Is your relationship with Jesus public or private?
- If private, why???

Matt 10:32-33

32 "Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven.

33 But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

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10/12/19

- Hebrews 12:2 - Jesus our example

Hebrews 12:2 (NLT)

... Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, **disregarding its shame**. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne.

- **What I am gaining is worth way more than what people may think**

**Don't let your fear of what could happen cause nothing to happen!
We must start caring about what God thinks more than what people think.**

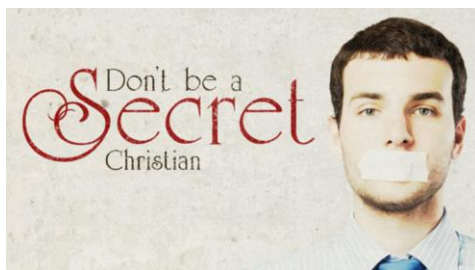
We worry way too much about what people think!
We must first give our lives to Jesus
We need to be baptized

We must be bold

Mission

*"To know Jesus and to make
Him known while living, loving
and serving like Him"*

CROSBY
Community
CHURCH



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10/12/19



- **God rewards boldness**

Acts 4:12-13

neither is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we can be saved

13 Now **when they saw the boldness of Peter and John**, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And **they realized that they had been with Jesus.**

We get bold when we spend time with Jesus

Acts 4:29

29 Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants **that with all boldness they may speak Your word,**

Acts 4:31

31 And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and **they spoke the word of God with boldness**

33 **And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all.**

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10/12/19

• How do we make Him known?

- People need to know you are a Christian
- You can live a good life... and that is great, but you must point people to Jesus while living, loving and serving like Him.
- Love people - Do something kind – Jesus loves you and so do I
- Too often we live in fear about what people's reaction will be if we mention Jesus in our everyday lives.

Conclusion

- We worry way too much about what people think!
- We must first give our lives to Jesus
- We need to be baptized
- We must be courageous