



Baptism Class

A Four-Part Series

Baptism Steps at Cornerstone

1. Watch baptism videos (4 parts).
2. Fill out application & write faith story.
3. Meet with elders to discuss.
4. Get baptized!

Big Questions

- I. What is baptism?
- II. Why do we baptize?
- III. Who can be baptized?
- IV. How can I be baptized?



I. What is baptism?



- **Baptism:** “The event of being dipped into water temporarily as a cleansing, ceremonial, and initiatory rite.” - Logos
- βαπτίζω (baptizō) = “to cover or plunge in water, wash, dip, immerse” - *Rose Publishing*

“Baptism is often described as *an outward sign of an inward change*. It is a public testimony that you believe in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. Your baptism powerfully proclaims what God has done and is doing, in your life. In addition, as a follower of Jesus, you are publicly saying that you join with Christians from around the world who are unified by faith in Jesus’ death and resurrection.”

–*Believer’s Baptism* pamphlet by Rose Publishing (emphasis added)

Outward Symbol

- **Baptism is an outward symbol. What is the outward symbol? It's death, burial, and resurrection with Christ.**
 1. **Immersion** (going down into water). Believers are identified with Christ's death and the death of their old sinful nature.

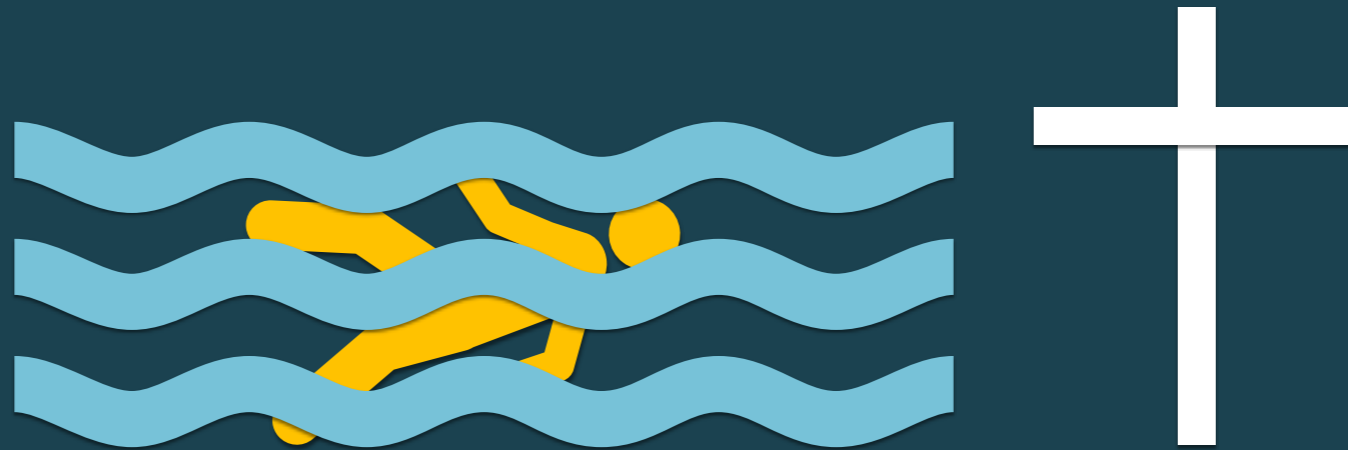


- ***Water*** = Symbol of death, chaos, and judgment, but also of cleansing and purity.

*Slide adapted from the *Rose Publishing* believer's baptism pamphlet, which took it from J.D. Douglas and Merrill C. Teeny eds., *The New International Dictionary of the Bible, Pictorial Edition*, (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1987), 124.

Outward Symbol

- **Baptism is an outward symbol. What is the outward symbol? It's death, burial, and resurrection with Christ.**
 2. **Submersion** (being completely under the water). Believers are identified with Christ's burial.



*Slide adapted from the *Rose Publishing* believer's baptism pamphlet, which took it from J.D. Douglas and Merrill C. Teeny eds., *The New International Dictionary of the Bible, Pictorial Edition*, (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1987), 124.

Outward Symbol

- **Baptism is an outward symbol.** What is the outward symbol? It's death, burial, and resurrection with Christ.
 3. **Emersion** (coming up out of the water). Believers are identified with Christ's resurrection from the dead to newness of life.



- Can you raise yourself from the dead? God raises you. You're saved by **God's grace.**

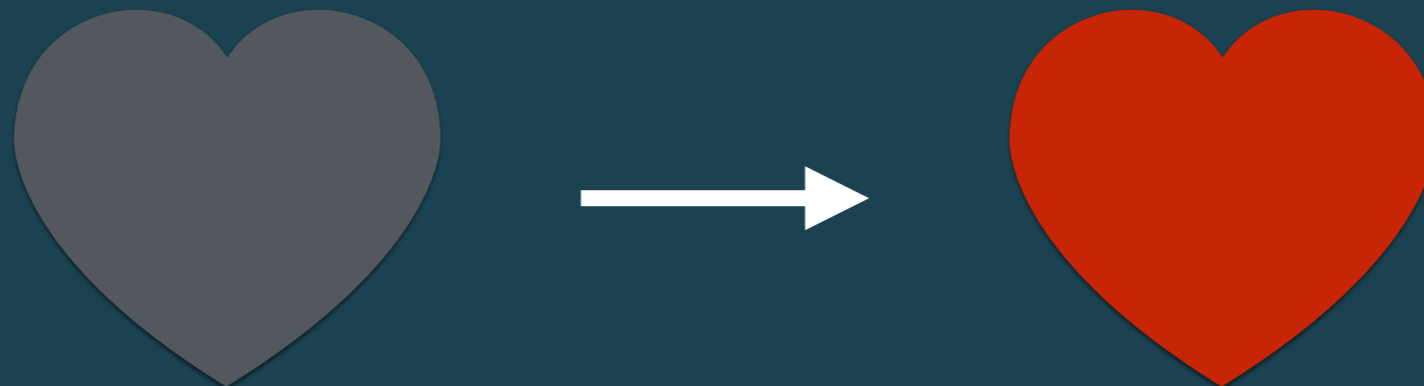
*Slide adapted from the *Rose Publishing* believer's baptism pamphlet, which took it from J.D. Douglas and Merrill C. Teeny eds., *The New International Dictionary of the Bible, Pictorial Edition*, (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1987), 124.

Where does the Bible teach this?

- **Romans 6:3-4** *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.** (NIV)*
- **Colossians 2:12** *having been **buried with him in baptism**, in which you were also **raised with him** through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead. (NIV)*

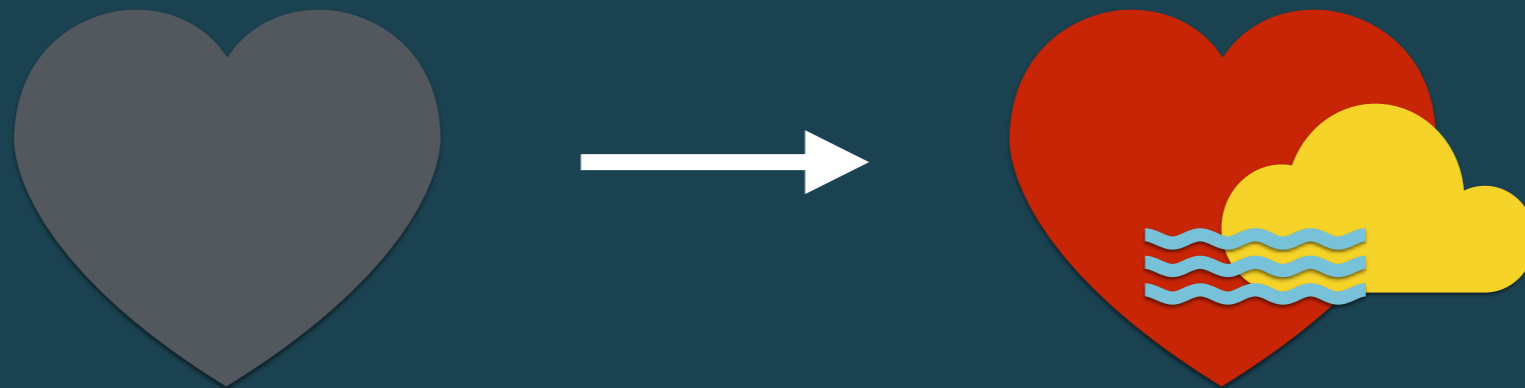
Inward Change

- **Baptism is an outward symbol of an inward change. What is the inward change?**
- **Ezekiel 36:26** I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. (NIV)
 - Receiving a new heart!



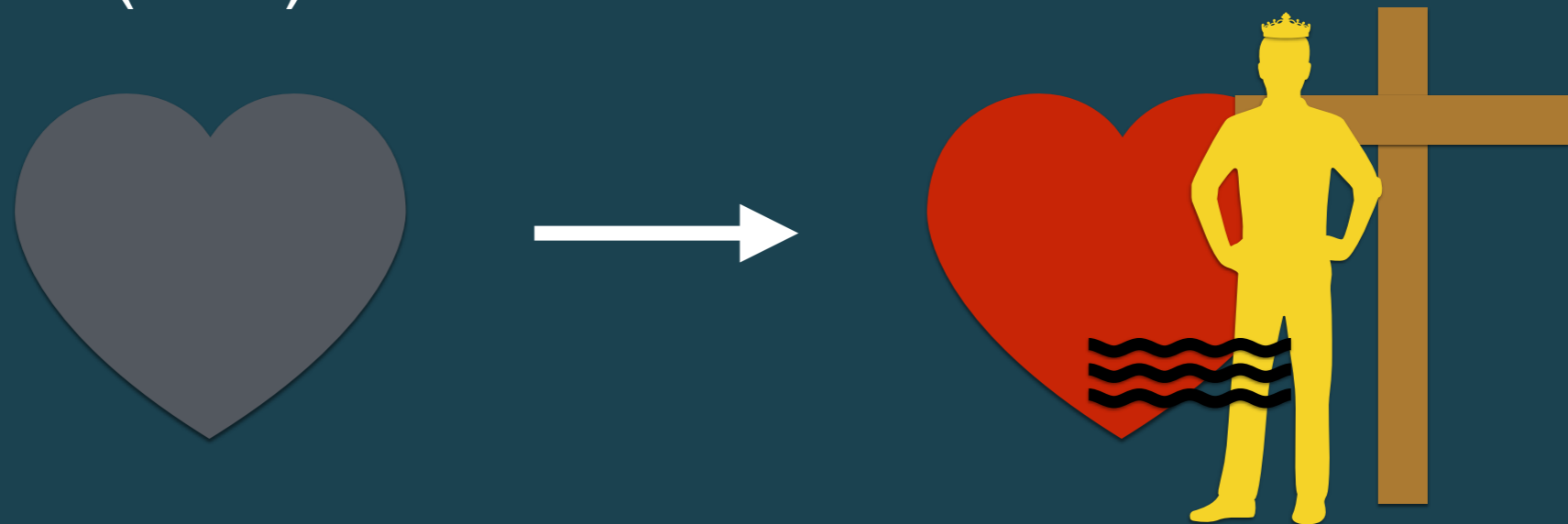
Inward Change

- **1 Corinthians 12:13** For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. (NIV)
 - Outward baptism **symbolizes** inward baptism by the Holy Spirit (wash sins away/give faith).



Inward Change

- “[Baptism] signifies that the believer has been spiritually plunged into Jesus Christ by the Spirit.”
- *Baptism* by Larry E. Dyer
- **Romans 6:3** Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? (NIV)





Outward Symbol of Inward Change

- **1 Peter 3:21** 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, (NIV)
- Baptism is an **outward symbol** of an **inward change**:
 - Your spiritual **death, burial, and resurrection** with Jesus Christ, your **union** with him;
 - Because the Holy Spirit has given you a **new heart**.

II. Why do we baptize?

Why do we Baptize?

- Jesus gave the church two **ordinances**, or commands for us to obey...
 - **Communion** - The Last Supper 
 - **Baptism** - The Great Commission 
- **Matthew 28:19-20** *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.” (NIV)*

Why do we Baptize?

- In Baptism, **God:**
 - Marks us as his own (**sign & seal**)
 - **Romans 4:11a** And [Abraham] received circumcision as a sign, a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. (NIV)



- **Sign** - Outward picture of internal change.

SIGN FROM CREATIONSWAP.COM




- **Seal** - God's stamp of ownership on us.

SEAL FROM PLOMBASTIC.WEBFLOW.COM

Why do we Baptize?

- In Baptism, **we**:
 - Affiliate with Christ's **New Covenant community**, the **Church** (aka. the people of God).
 - Publicly **profess** faith in Christ alone

Old Covenant Community

- **Covenant:** A promise where God is involved.
- The **Old Covenant** (Sinai) consists of **believing** and **non-believing** Israelites and those who **converted** to Judaism.
 - Males marked by **circumcision** as their **sign**. 
- But... God's true people were always those who **believe**.
 - **1 Kings 18:18** Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel--all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and whose mouths have not kissed him." (NIV)

God Promised a New Covenant

Jeremiah 31:31-32a

“The days are coming,” declares the Lord,
“**when I will make a new covenant**
with the people of Israel
and with the people of Judah.

It will not be like the covenant
I made with their ancestors
when I took them by the hand
to lead them out of Egypt,
because they broke my covenant... (NIV)

Jesus Made the New Covenant

Luke 22:20

In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the **new covenant** in my blood, which is poured out for you. (NIV) (c.f., Hebrews 8:7-8)

This new covenant is actually similar to an old covenant, but not the one at Sinai... the one with **Abram/Abraham**.

Old/New Covenant with Abraham

Genesis 15 (NIV)

6 Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness. . . .

9 So the Lord said to him, “Bring me a heifer, a goat and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon.”

10 Abram brought all these to him, cut them in two and arranged the halves opposite each other; the birds, however, he did not cut in half. 11 Then birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away.

Old/New Covenant with Abraham

Genesis 15 (NIV)

12 As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him. . . .

17 When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces.

The covenant was not dependent on Abraham's obedience, but on God's promise.

Jesus Made the New Covenant

We enter into this new covenant **through faith.**

Romans 10:9-10

If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. (NIV)

New Covenant Community

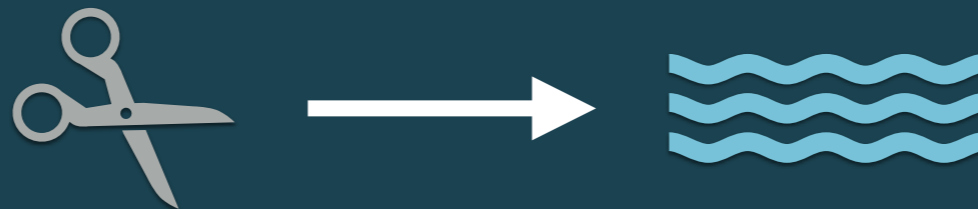
- The **New Covenant** (Church) consists of those who **know Christ**. (Matt 7:21-23)
 - All **believers** are marked by **baptism** as their initial **sign** and **communion** as their continual/ongoing sign.



- We are baptized into the **people of God**, the **Church**.
- **Acts 2:41** *Those who accepted his message were **baptized**, and about **three thousand** were added to their number that day. (NIV)*

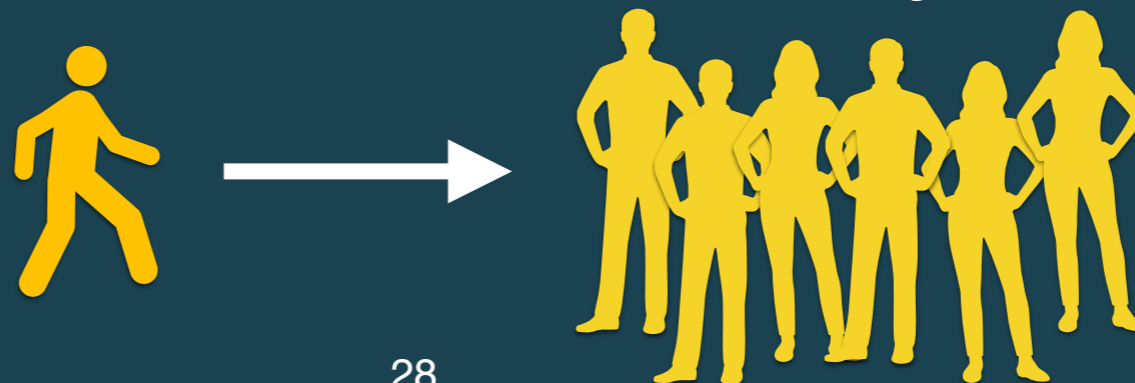
Colossians 2:11-12

- 11 In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised by Christ, 12 having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead. (NIV)
- **Baptism is the new circumcision**, but it is only for those who have **faith**.



Baptism & the Local Church

- **1 Corinthians 12:12-13** For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body —Jews or Greeks, slaves or free— and all were made to drink of one Spirit. (NIV)
- We are baptized into the **people of God**, specifically, into a **local church** body, which symbolizes our union with the **universal church** body.



The Church Matters!

- **Hebrews 10:24-25** And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (NIV)
- God wants us to **regularly gather** with other believers as the **intentional church community**.
- Baptism is a kind of **initiation rite** into this community. Communion is an **ongoing rite**.

	Old Covenant	New Covenant
People	Israel	Church
Qualifications	Religious & Ethnic	Spiritual
Believe	Yes & No	Yes
Members	*Regenerate & Unregenerate	Regenerate
Signs	Circumcision	Baptism & Communion

***Regenerate means “born again” by the Holy Spirit.**

Baptism gives us a new identity

Galatians 3:26-29 So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, 27 for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. (NIV) (c.f., Rom 8:15-17; Gal 4:1-6)

The Church & Identity

Christians “have a new identity because they have been baptized into Christ and adopted as his sisters and brothers. . . . The biological family, let alone the nation-state, is no longer the primary source of identity, support and growth.”

- *A Peculiar People* by Rodney Clapp (p. 100)

Where do you find your primary identity?

- Your family? Nation? Local gym?

Is your church community primary, or secondary?

Does Baptism Grant Salvation?

- **Mark 16:16** Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but **whoever does not believe** will be condemned. (NIV)
 - It does not say, “whoever is not baptized will be condemned...”
 - Emphasis is on **faith!**
 - We are saved by grace, not works (Eph 2:8-9)

III. Who can be baptized?

Who can be baptized?



Anyone who is old enough to **understand** the **gospel** and **believe** in **Jesus Christ**.

What is the gospel?

Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, (NIV)



Glory



Sin

What is the gospel?

Romans 6:23a For the wages of sin is death... (NIV)



**Eternal
Life**



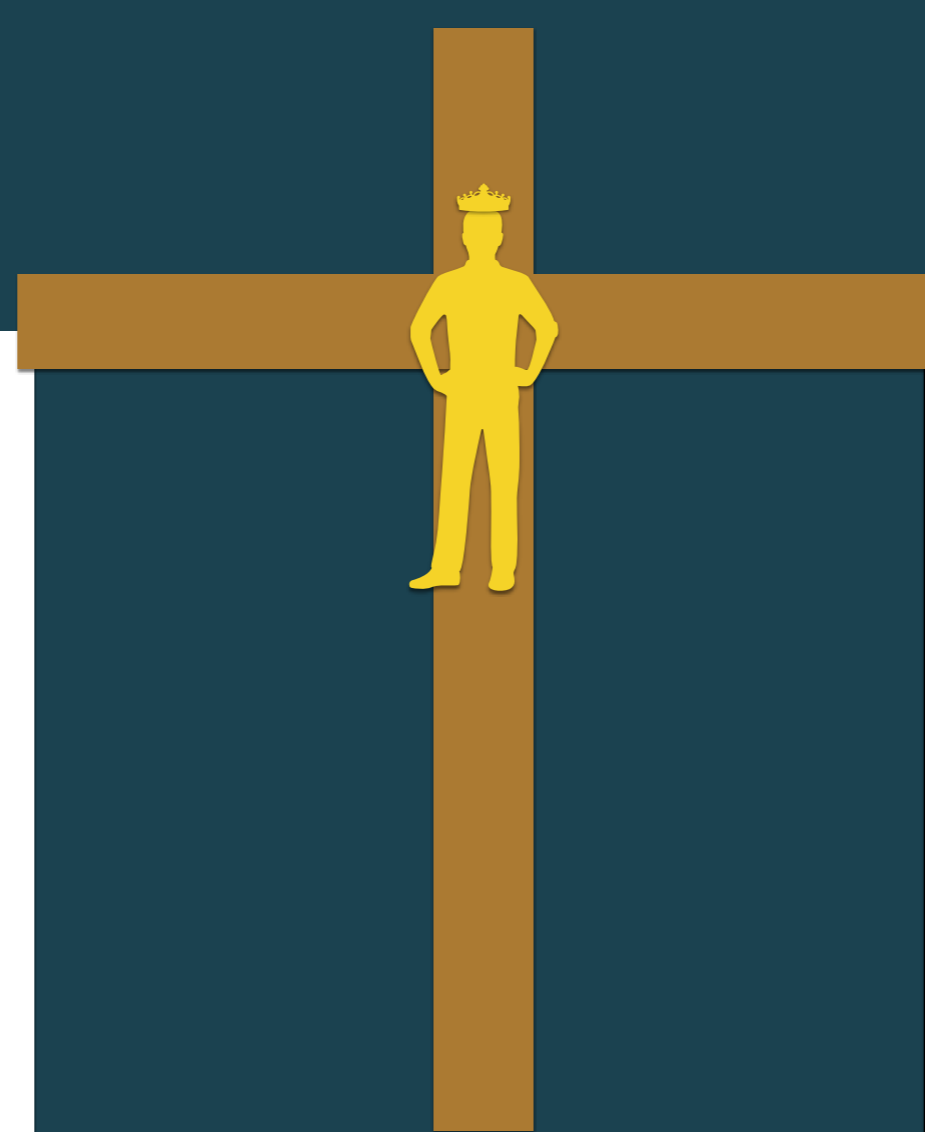
Death

Sin

What is the gospel?

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (NIV)

**Eternal
Life**

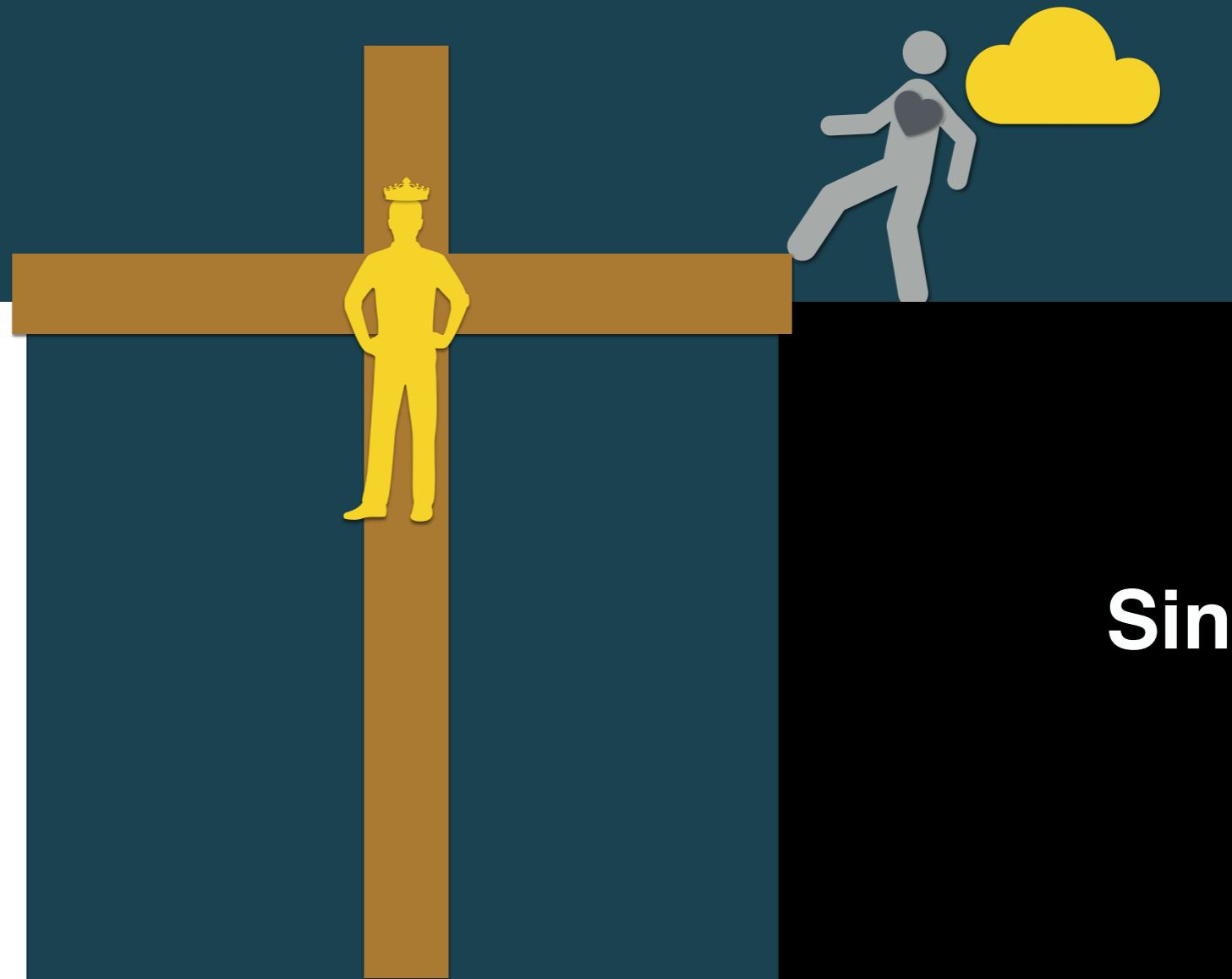


Sin

What is the gospel?

John 3:5-6 Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. 6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. (NIV)

**Eternal
Life**

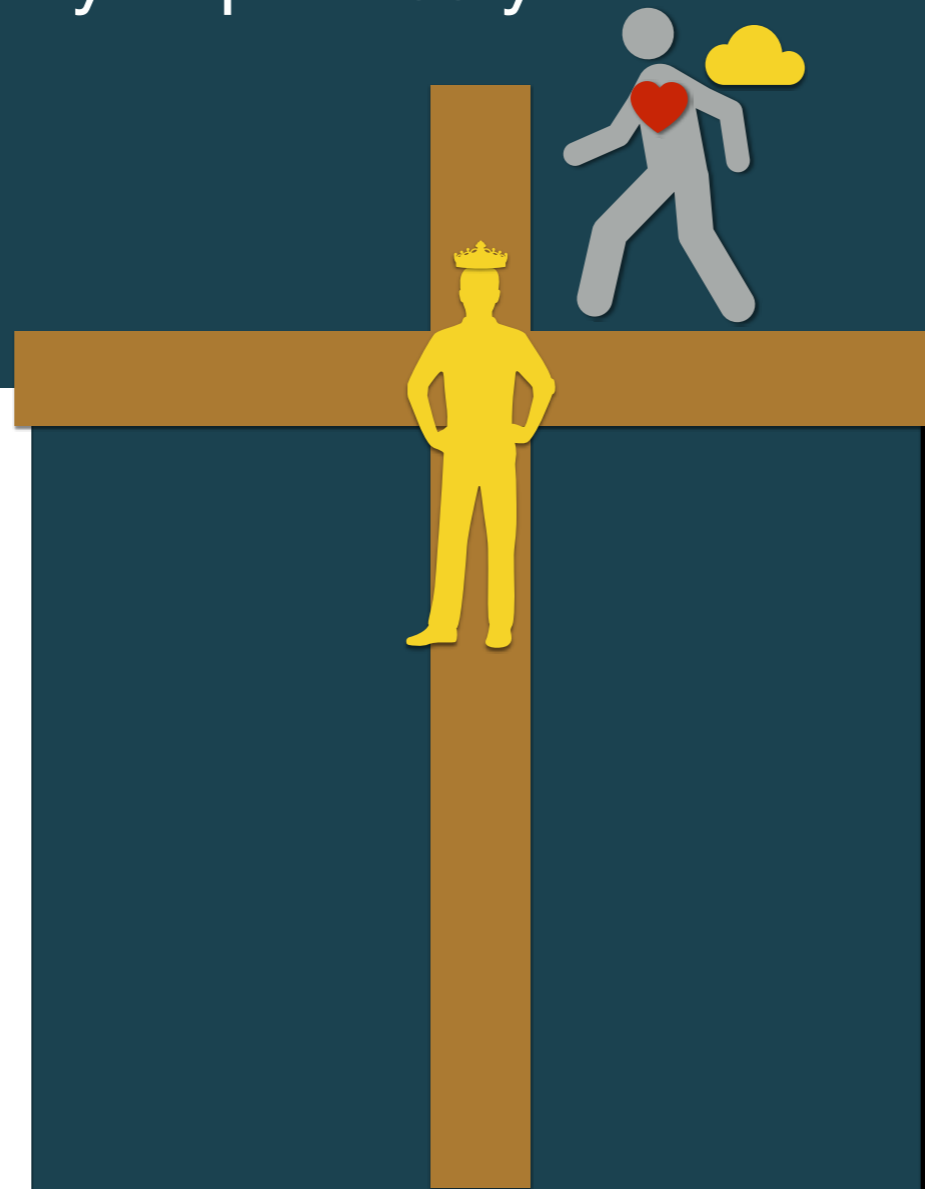


Sin

What is the gospel?

Romans 10:9-10 If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. (NIV)

**Eternal
Life**

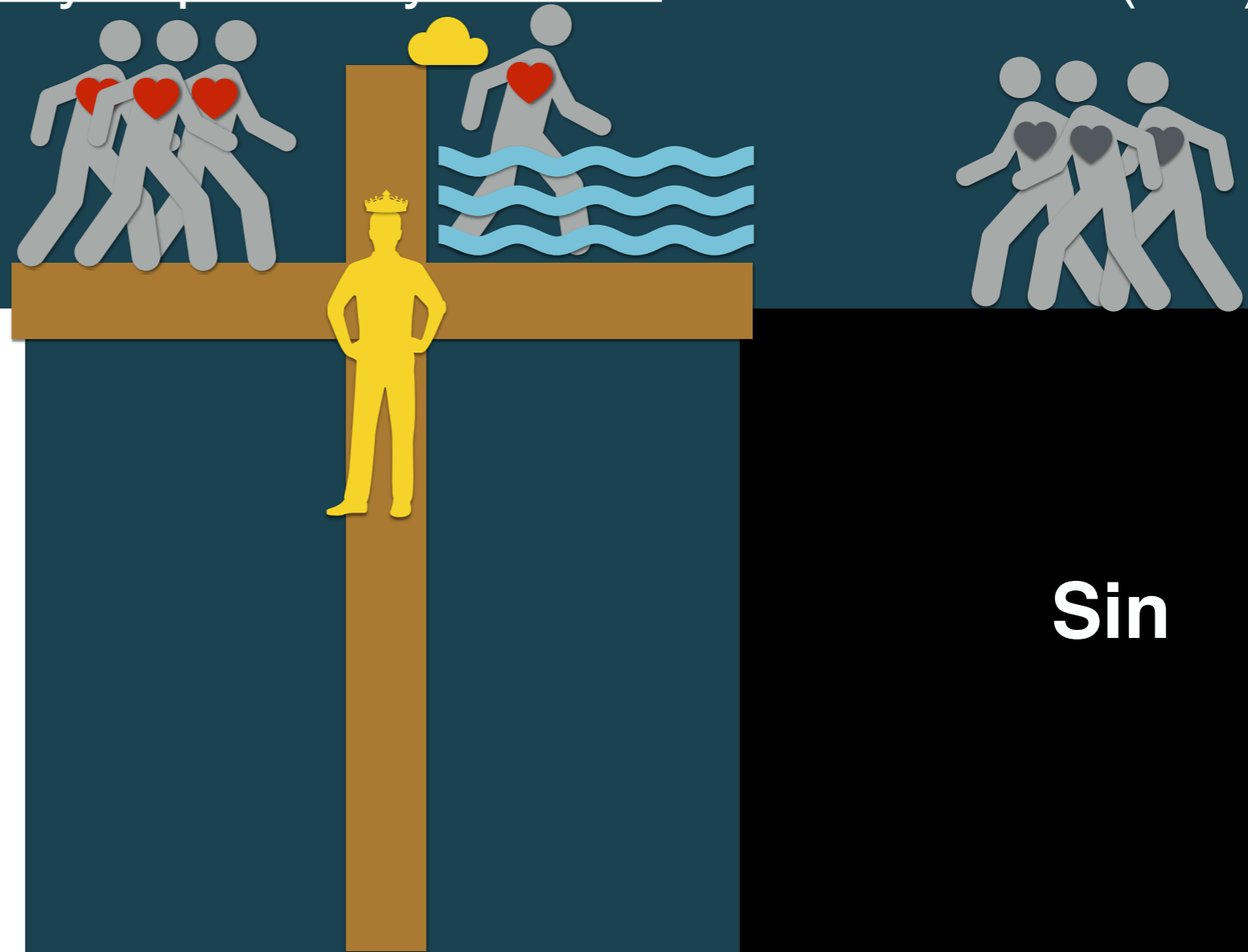


Sin

What is the gospel?

Romans 10:9-10 If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. (NIV)

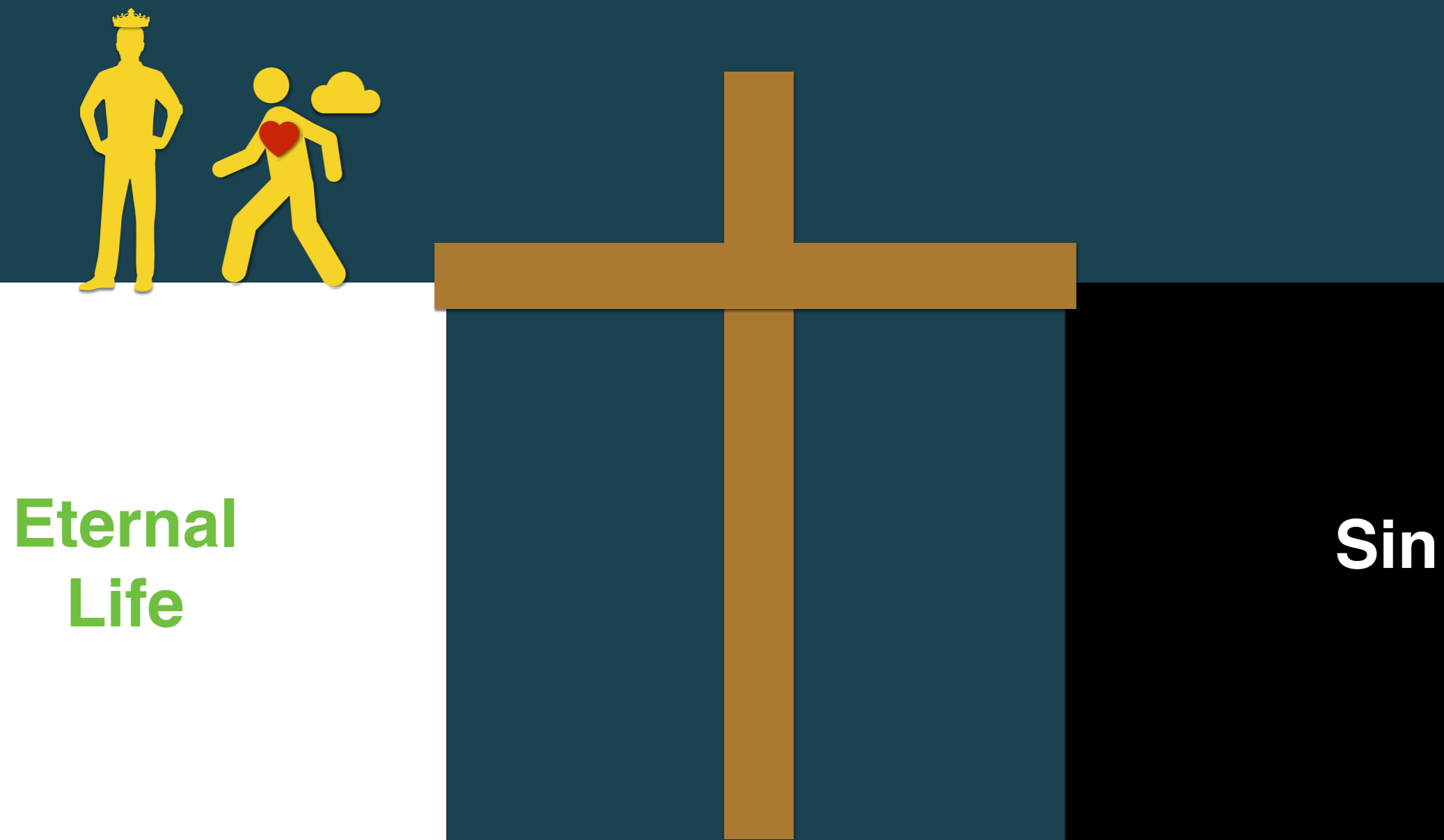
**Eternal
Life**



Sin

What is the gospel?

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord., (NIV)



A Moment of Self Critique

- Crossing the sin-gap on a Jesus-cross is helpful but not necessarily the image Jesus gives us.
- In Genesis 28, Jacob has a dream where he sees a ladder to heaven, but he doesn't climb it.
- Jesus identifies himself and his work as that **ladder** between heaven and earth.
- **John 1:51** He then added, "Very truly I tell you, you will see 'heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on' the Son of Man." (NIV)

A Moment of Self Critique

Jesus likens himself, and his ministry, to a bridge between heaven and earth much like Jacob's ladder—not a bridge we climb or cross over but something connecting, or linking, heaven and earth, God and humankind. Jesus is how we come to God, not just how we cross the sin-gap to get over to God. Jesus stands between us and God at all times, making the Father known to us and interceding for our sins. This is why “asking Jesus into my heart” is such a slippery concept—using Jesus as a bridge to cross over is a much different proposition from actually being connected to or in Christ.

- *The Myth of Equality* by Ken Wytsma (p. 118)

Who can be baptized?

- At Cornerstone, we practice **believer's baptism** (credobaptism).
 - **Articles of Faith: V. 12.** We believe in observing the ordinances of the Lord's Supper (communion) and baptism. Our church practices baptism after confession of faith.
 - **“Credo”** comes from “creed” (belief before baptism)
 - Baptism *after* confession of faith (aka. *upon, as...*)

What We Believe

- **Who holds this view?** Baptists, Non-Denominational Churches, and some Congregationalists
- **Where** do we see baptism for those who repent and believe in the **Bible**? Pattern in the **early church**.
- **Acts 2:38** *Peter replied, “Repent and **be baptized**, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (NIV) (see also Matthew 3:6)*

Where else does the Bible teach this?

- **Acts 8:12** *But when they believed Philip as he proclaimed the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, **they were baptized**, both men and women. (NIV) (c.f., Acts 10:44-48)*
- **Acts 8:35–36, 38** *Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the **good news** about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some **water** and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my **being baptized?**” And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and **Philip baptized him.** (NIV)*

What Others Believe: Infant Baptism

- Many churches practice **infant baptism** (i.e., paedobaptism).
 - “Pais” means “child” (at least one believing parent)
 - Lutherans, Anglicans, Reformed, and Congregationalists
- Biblically based in God’s promise to Abraham and his children (Gen 17:7-8) and NT examples of household baptisms (Acts 16:13-15; 32-34; 1 Cor 1:16).



Photo Via: [Kirk of Kildare Presbyterian Church \(USA\)](#)

- **Acts 2:38a–39** “Repent and be baptized... **The promise is for you and your children** and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.” (NIV)

Response to Infant Baptism

- **We respect the Biblical reasons** many faithful churches and strong believers give for **infant-baptism**.
 - But... Just like Abraham was **circumcised yesterday** as a **sign of his faith**, we are **baptized today** as a **sign of our faith** (Gen 15:6; Rom 2:29; 4:9-11; Gal 3:26-27; Col 2:11-12; 1 Pet 3:21).
 - We see **continuities** between the Old and New Covenant signs (people of God), but also **discontinuities** (only for believers).

What Others Believe: Catholic Baptism

- The **Catholic** church practices **infant baptism**.
 - Initial sacrament that **conveys saving grace**
 - Accomplishes “remission of sin, both original and actual—only original sin in the case of infants and young children, since they are incapable of actual sin; and both original and actual sin in the case of older persons” catholic.com



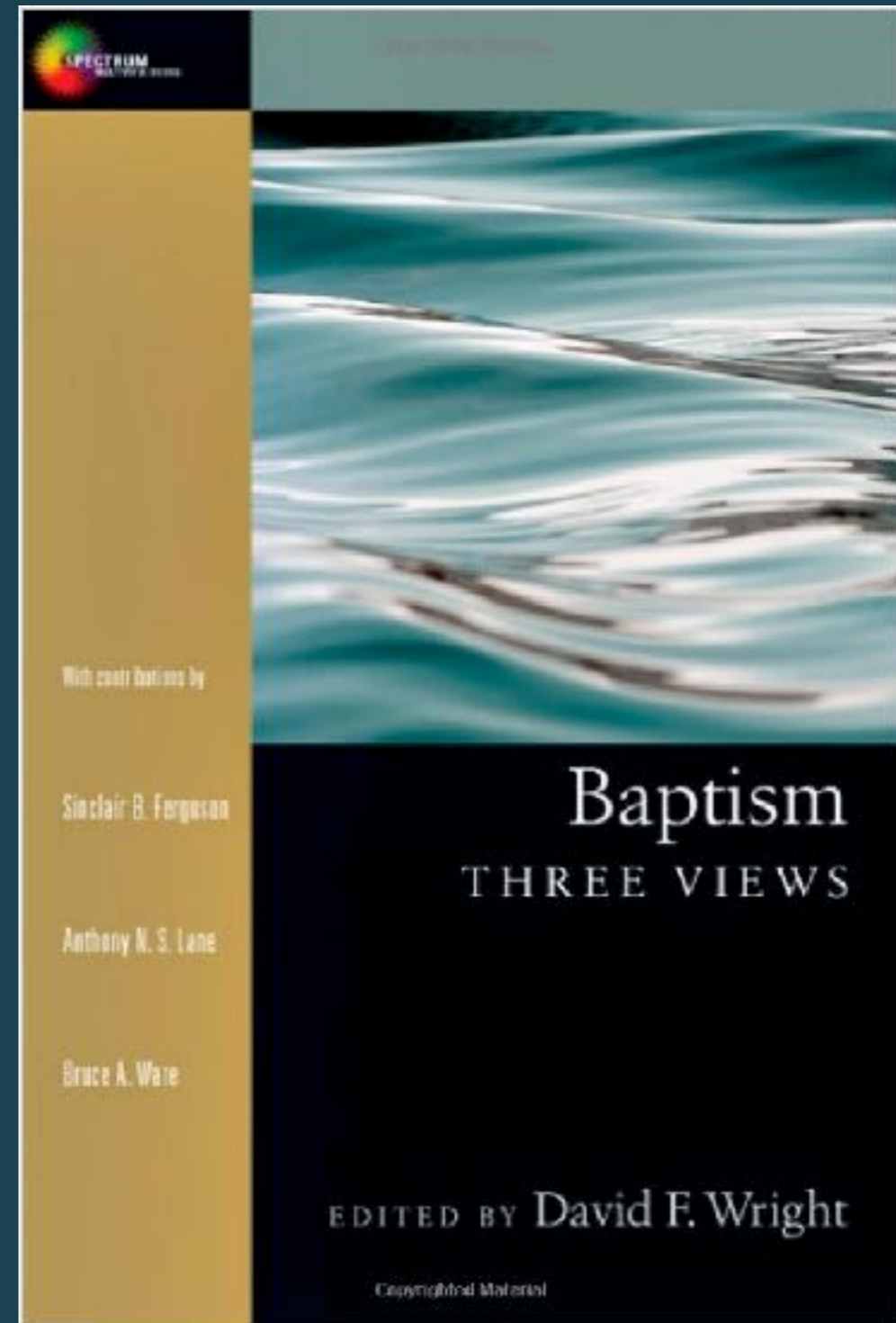
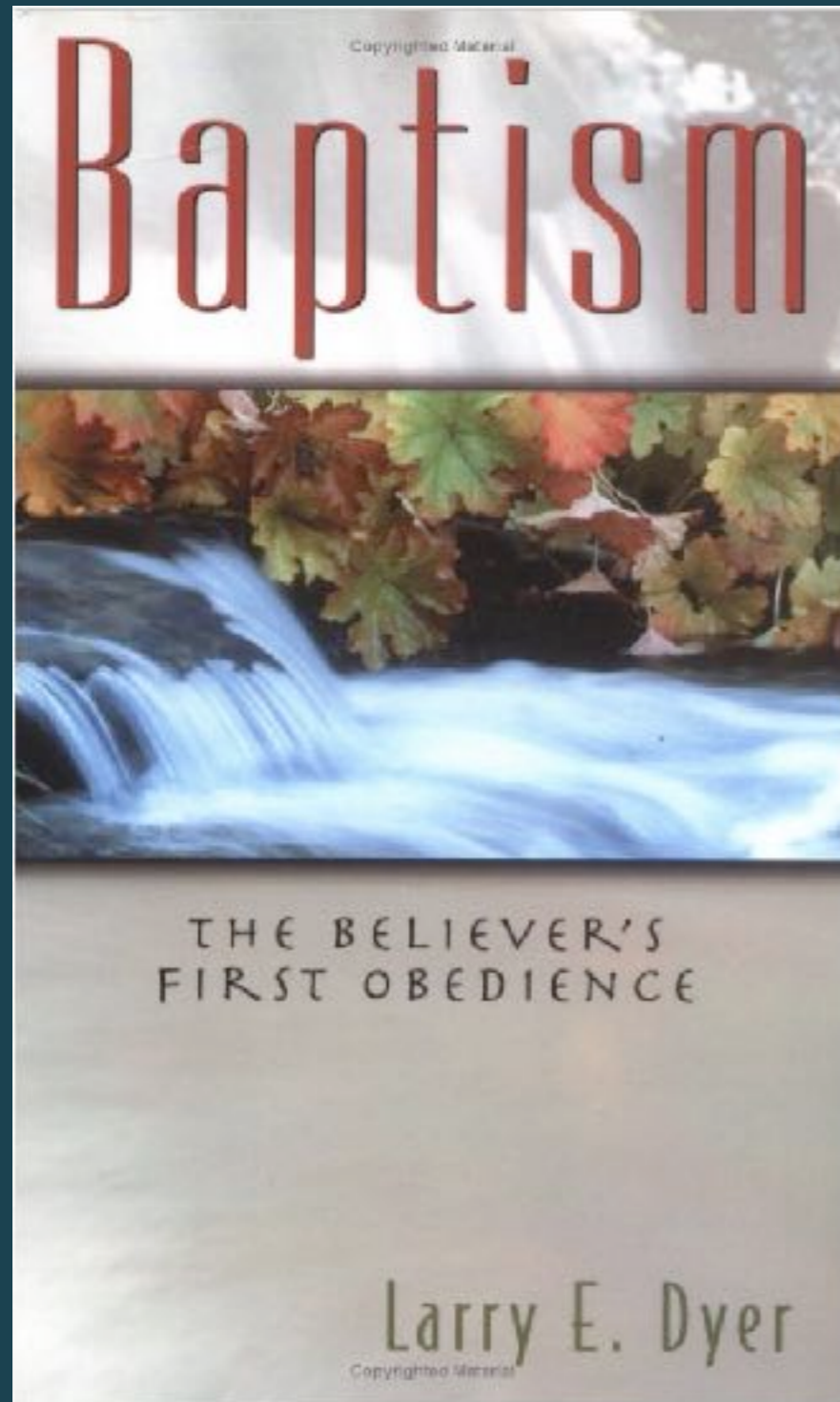
Photo Via: solonstmary.org

- You can still lose salvation by unforgiven mortal sins
- Catholics view **re-baptism** as a sin against the Holy Spirit (catholic.com).

Response to Catholic Baptism

- **We respect the Catholic Church** but disagree that any ritual can **convey saving grace**.
 - **Ephesians 2:8-9** For it is by **grace** you have been saved, through **faith**—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— **not by works**, so that no one can boast. (NIV)
 - We are all forgiven, **child** or **adult**, by God's **grace**, not by anything we do.

Need to study this more? Try...



IV. How can I be baptized?

Step 1 - Repent:

Turn from sin to God.

Mark 1:15 “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!” (NIV)



Acts 3:19 Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, (NIV)

Step 2 - Believe:

Believe the good news about Jesus.

Mark 1:15 “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!” (NIV)



John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (NIV)

How Can I Be Baptized?

- Please fill out our **baptism application**. We ask for:
 1. A **demonstrated commitment** to Christ prior to your baptism.
 2. Write and submit your **Faith Story**.
 3. Meet with a **Pastor** or **Elder** to discuss.
 4. Commit to **faithfully attending** and serving a **Christ-centered church** going forward.

But I'm Terrified of Public Speaking

- While we **recommend** you share your faith story **by reading it** the day of, if you're too nervous, we can **pre-record** your faith story on **video**.



Your Baptism Day

1. Come **early** and bring a copy of your **faith story**.
2. Wear **swim shorts** and a **dark colored T-shirt**.
3. Bring a change of **clothes**, a **towel**, and a **bag** for your wet clothes.
4. Remember to **enjoy** yourself and **invite your friends!**

