

Adult Spiritual Formation Lunch & Learn

Walk in Love – Chapter 2

18 Sep 2020

Below are statements from the 'Walk in Love' book offered for discussion – in addition to something you read that raised a question in your mind, or a statement about which you would like to hear the thoughts of others in the group.

Chapter 2 – The New Life of Grace | Baptismal Beliefs

The sacraments are outward and visible signs of inward and spiritual grace. (BCP 857) Put another way, they are earthly signs of heavenly activity. (WIL pg 20)

Pages 23-24 in the book (also BCP 858), the inward and spiritual grace in Baptism is:

- Union with Christ in his death and resurrection.
- Birth into God's family, the church.
- Forgiveness of sins.
- New life in the Holy Spirit.

What is important about each of these? (WIL pg 26)

Which one of these outward signs of baptism speaks most meaningfully to you?

How have you experienced 'inward and spiritual grace' in the ritual of baptism? (WIL pg 26)

The book recounts parts of Jesus' baptism from the gospels (pg 20-22). Read the accounts in Mark 1:1-1:11, Matthew 3:1-17, Luke 3:1-22. What do you notice? How do you think these stories relate to the baptism we practice today?

Jesus did not invent baptism, ...he completely redefined it. (WIL pg 21) How do you understand this statement?

Some Christians reserve baptism as a sacrament only for adults. Episcopalians have a different view of the sacrament, believing that God's grace is present in the sacrament *even when we do not understand how or what is happening*. Therefore we baptize people of all ages (WIL pg 24). How do you respond to the italicized words?

Our scriptures and liturgies make a strong connection between baptism and death. What are some things we 'die to' in baptism? Is your understanding of death changed by the 'waters of baptism'? (WIL pg 26)

If through baptism we are raised to new life, how would you describe this new life of grace? (WIL pg 26)