Baptism Sunday

Why We Cheer

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Ryan Conlon / November 1, 2026

Romans 6:1-14 "What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? [2] By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? [3] Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? [4] We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. [5] For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His. [6] We know that our old self was crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. [7] For one who has died has been set free from sin. [8] Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him. [9] We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. [10] For the death He died He died to sin, once for all, but the life He lives He lives to God. [11] So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. [12] Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. [13] Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. [14] For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace."

<u>7 Reasons Why We Cheer When Someone is Baptized</u>

1. We cheer because Jesus commands baptism.

   Matthew 28:19-20 "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [20] teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

2. We cheer because believers obey Christ.

   Acts 2:37-38 "Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, 'Brothers, what shall we do?' [38] And Peter said to them, 'Repent and be baptized'…"

   Acts 22:16 "And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on His name."

3. We cheer because obedience to Christ matters.

   a. Obedience is the difference between "all talk" and real life.

James 1:22 "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."

b. Obedience is the difference between liking Christ and loving Christ.

John 14:15 "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments."

John 15:13-14 "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. [14] You are My friends if you do what I command you."

1 John 2:3-6 "And by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. [4] Whoever says 'I know Him' but does not keep His commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, [5] but whoever keeps His word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in Him: [6] whoever says he abides in Him ought to walk in the same way in which He walked."

4. We cheer because baptism pictures the gospel.

Romans 6:3-4 "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? [4] We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life."

1. **Going under the water → a picture of death**
(Our old self crucified with Christ)

b. **Coming out of the water → a picture of new life**
(Raised with Christ to walk in newness of life)

5. We cheer because Jesus died for sin.

1 John 2:1-2 "My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, **we have an advocate** with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. [2] **He is the propitiation for our sins**, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world."

Romans 5:8 "But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

6. We cheer because Jesus is alive.

Revelation 1:17-18 "I saw Him, I fell at His feet as though dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying, 'Fear not, I am the first and the last, [18] and the living One. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.'"

7. We cheer because in Him—we will live, too.

Romans 6:5 "For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His."

John 11:25-26 "Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me, though he die, yet shall he live, **26** and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?'"

That's why we cheer.

Questions for Personal Reflection and/or Community Group Discussion:

1. **Have you been baptized as a believer?** If not, what has kept you from taking that step of obedience to Christ?
2. **In what areas of your life are you tempted to be a "hearer only" rather than a "doer" of God's Word?** What would obedience look like this week?
3. **When you think about baptism as a picture of the gospel (death to life), how clearly is that reality visible in your daily life?** Where do you see evidence of "newness of life"—and where is growth still needed?
4. **Do you truly believe that Jesus died for your sin—taking the wrath of God on your behalf?** How does that truth shape the way you view your sin, your forgiveness, and your relationship with God?
5. **Jesus didn't just die—He is alive, and in Him we will live, too. Do you believe that?** How would your fears, priorities, or decisions change if you lived in light of that reality every day?