

**“What it means to be Reformed”; Session # 7 - “Sola Gratia”, “The Meaning of Baptism”, Prepared for the Adult Sunday School class on August 24th, 2014, by Pastor Paul Rendall.**

A Person who is Reformed in their theology and practice understands the great need of understanding conversion to Christ, to a person’s being able to live the Christian life.

**There are 5 steps in the conversion and subsequent obedience of every Christian** which honor God and which are regulated by His Word, and which lead every sincere believer to desire to be baptized and to join the local church which is honoring God’s Word:

**(1) Coming to know the Inward Reality of Faith, because the gospel has been believed.** John 3: 3-8 1st Peter 3: 18-22 1 Corinthians 12: 12-14

**(2) Our Reception of Christ as our Savior by Faith** – gives power to obey His Word. Christ has changed and is changing our life, and we now want to join the church and publicly be recognized as Christ’s disciple.

John 1: 12 and 13 Acts 9: 26, 27

**(3) Our understanding the Meaning of Baptism, gives us assurance.** We are united together with Christ in the Likeness of His death, burial, and resurrection.

Romans 6: 1-11

**(4) The Public Declaration of our Faith before the Church and other witnesses** – This sets the stage for our being formally brought into the church which we can identify with theologically and practically.

Acts 2: 40-42 Acts 9: 26-28 Psalm 66: 16 and 17

**(5) Our actually joining this local church which is teaching us the way of truth;** learning to receive and submit to God’s Word and participating in the ordinances and which Christ has given to His Church.

Acts 16: 15 1st Corinthians 11: 17-34 Hebrews 10: 23-25 2nd Timothy 4: 1-5, and 14-16

Hebrews 13: 17