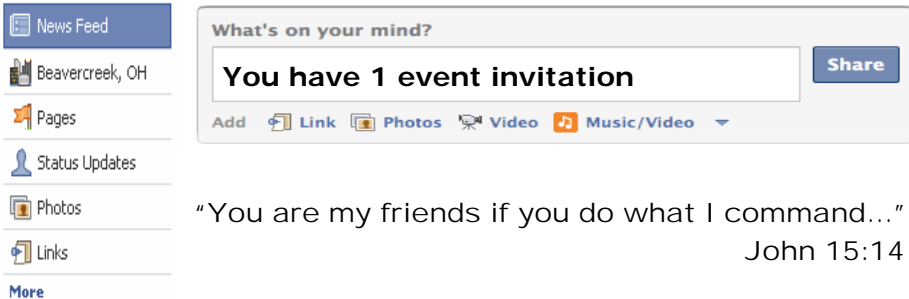




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## creating spiritual networks



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"You are my friends if you do what I command..."  
John 15:14

### What is Baptism? Greek: bap-te'-zo


1. to dip repeatedly, to immerse, to submerge (of vessels sunk)
2. to cleanse by dipping or submerging, to wash, to make clean with water, to wash one's self, bathe
3. to overwhelm

 It is a statement of my commitment. Acts 2:41-42

 It is a symbol of God's deeper work. 1 Peter 3:21

 It is a symbol of identification with Christ. Romans 6:4


 It is a symbol of my new faith. John 3:3


 It is a symbol of my forgiveness. Titus 3:5




### When I am baptized...

#### 1. I improve my spiritual connection.


 "Peter said to them, 'Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself.'" Acts 2:38-39 (NASB)


 "...Everyone who believes in him [Jesus] receives forgiveness of sins through his name.' While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter said, 'Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.' So he ordered that they be baptized..." Acts 10:46-48 (NIV)

#### 2. I follow Jesus' example.

 "Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' Jesus replied, 'Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.' Then John consented. As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.'" Matthew 3:13-17 (NIV)

#### 3. I participate in the Great Commission.

 "Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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.'" Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)

 "As they [Philip/eunuch] rode along, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, 'Look! There's some water! Why can't I be baptized?' He ordered the carriage to stop, and they went down into the water, and Philip baptized him." Acts 8:36-38 (NLT)