

**Title:** Baptism  
**Scripture:** 1 Peter 3:2  
**Speaker:** Ian Bonthron



**What does the Bible say about water \_\_\_\_\_ ?**

**Mainline Church view - Baptism is a work you do or receive for \_\_\_\_\_  
grace from God**

**1 Peter 3:21 ESV**

21 Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

*Baptism saves you because it represents inward faith, as evidenced by one's appeal to God for the forgiveness of one's sins (for a good conscience). Furthermore, baptism "saves" only insofar as it is grounded in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ — Crossway Bibles, The ESV Study Bible (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2008), 2411.*

**Baptism is a symbol, sign and seal of the vow God made to you. It is a public declaration that you count on Jesus' work for your salvation.**

**1. Physical Baptism does \_\_\_\_\_ give you Saving Grace.**

**2. Baptism functions as a \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ of God's Grace toward you.**

**3. You don't need to be baptized to be saved, but Jesus commands that members of His church should be baptized.**

**Matthew 28:19-20 ESV**

19 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."

**Many faithful, Bible believing, God honor Christians have disagreed on some of the \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ of baptism.**

***“In Essentials Unity, in Non-Essentials Liberty, in All Things Charity.” —  
Evangelical Presbyterian Church***

**We believe Baptism is important. We also believe some of the meaning, method, and timing are non-essential. We seek to allow for liberty and charity in what our members believe and practice concerning baptism.**

**What are the 2 general views of Baptism and how will we practice baptism?**

**Infant (Paedo) Baptism and Believers (Credo) Baptism**

**Infant Baptism serves as the sign and seal of the covenant of God’s grace toward his people, by which God claims the children of believing parents as members of His visible church community, just as circumcision marks covenant inclusion in the Old Testament.**

**Genesis 17:17 ESV**

17 Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed and said to himself, “Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?”

**Romans 4:3,9-12 ESV**

3 For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.” ...9 Is this blessing then only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? For we say that faith was counted to Abraham as righteousness. 10 How then was it counted to him? Was it before or after he had been circumcised? It was not after, but before he was circumcised. 11 He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. The purpose was to make him the father of all who believe without being circumcised, so that righteousness would be counted to them as well, 12 and to make him the father of the circumcised who are not merely circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.

**Colossians 2:11-12 ESV**

11 In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, 12 having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.

**Acts 2:38-39 ESV**

38 And Peter said to them, "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. 39 For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself."

**Presbyterians would argue that since baptism replaces circumcision, baptism should be given to believers and to their children as a \_\_\_\_\_ of God's faithfulness to them and a \_\_\_\_\_ that he keeps his promises toward them. Baptism then admits the child into the local church community.**

**Baptists would argue that baptism is an \_\_\_\_\_ sign of an \_\_\_\_\_ reality; faith and trust in Christ. Baptism is God's seal that reminds believers of His work and promise, that He has saved them, is saving them, and will save them in the end.**

**Acts 2:38-39 ESV**

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**Acts 2:41 ESV**

41 So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

**Acts 8:12-13 ESV**

12 But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. 13 Even Simon himself believed, and after being baptized he continued with Philip. And seeing signs and great miracles performed, he was amazed.

**Acts 9:18 ESV**

18 And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized;

**Acts 10:47-48 ESV**

47 "Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" 48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

**Acts 16:14-15 ESV**

14 One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. 15 And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us.

**Acts 16:32-34 ESV**

32 And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. 33 And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family. 34 Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God.

**Acts 18:8 ESV**

8 Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord, together with his entire household. And many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptized.

**Acts 19:3-5 ESV**

3 And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They said, "Into John's baptism." 4 And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus." 5 On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

**Acts 22:16 ESV**

16 And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.'

*Saving faith precedes and grounds Christian baptism* — Bruce A. Ware, "Believers' Baptism View," in *Baptism: Three Views*, ed. David F. Wright, Spectrum Multiview Books (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2009), 27

**1 Peter 3:21 ESV**

21 Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

**Baptism should be preceded by an appeal to God for his forgiveness and life through Jesus.**

**Jeremiah 31:31-34 ESV**

31 "Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, 32 not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. 33 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34 And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

**John 3:16 ESV**

16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life

**The New Covenant relationship is based on believing in Christ’s Work.**

**Colossians 2:11-12 ESV**

11 In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, 12 having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through **faith** in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.

**Baptism functions as a picture like Paul says in Romans 6 - that your old life is buried with Jesus (pictured in going under the water) and your new life is given to you through Jesus’ resurrection (pictured in coming up out of the water).**

**Baptism is a sign to the world of an infant Christians faith and relationship to God, just like circumcision was a sign of an infant Israelite of their relationship to God.**

**Mark 7:3-4 ESV**

3 (For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands properly, holding to the tradition of the elders, 4 and when they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other traditions that they observe, such as the washing of cups and pots and copper vessels and dining couches.)

**Baptism is an outward sign of an inward reality. It identifies you with Jesus and your trust in His saving work.**

- 1. Don’t stress about this.**
- 2. If you want to become a member of our church, we require that you are baptized and that you believe in the baptist or presbyterian view of baptism.**
- 3. If you have been baptized as an infant, you should not be “re-baptized” after you trust in Jesus.**
- 4. If you have been baptized as an infant, but you have come to believe that baptism is for believers and that infant baptism is not what scripture teaches, then we would welcome you to be baptized for the 1st time.**

**5. If you are a parent and member of our church and you believe in the Presbyterian understanding of scripture regarding infant baptism, we will facilitate that baptism as a church.**

**6. We do not believe that both methods are right, but we will practice liberty and grace toward each other. One day, in heaven, we will find out who is right, but until that day, we will lovingly disagree, and then lock arms and storm the gates of hell with the gospel of Jesus Christ, together.**

**7. Our primary focus is Jesus. We want you to know his death, burial, resurrection. If you trust him, you are in a covenant relationship with Him. Baptism always points to His work for you.**