

“Biblical Baptism - An Important Step”

1. Who Should Be Baptized?

- A. Acts 2:41 - Those who had received his word were baptized that day
- B. Acts 8:12 - Those who believed were baptized, men and women alike.
- C. Acts 18:8 - When they heard were believing and being baptized.

Conclusion: Everyone that has repented and by faith believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and Lord should be baptized. (Romans 10:9-13)

2. Why Be Baptized?

- A. Obedience - Christ commands every believer to be baptized. Jesus said:
 - 1) Matthew 28:19 - Make disciples of all the nations and baptize them.
 - 2) 1 John 2:3-6 – Obedience is a test/proof of our faith.
- B. The example set before us - The early church practiced baptism.
 - 1) Acts 8:36-38, Acts 10:44-48, Acts 16:31-33, Acts 18:8 -

Conclusion: Baptism is an act of obedience to Christ’s command (Matthew 28:19) that was obeyed by the first Christians

3. What Is The Meaning of Baptism?

- A. Baptism is not a saving ritual.
 - a) Ephesians 2:8-9 – We were saved by God’s grace through faith and not by our works
 - b) Titus 3:5 - “He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy,...”
- B. Baptism is a declaration of our identification with Christ in his death, burial, and resurrection.
 - a) Colossians 2:12 “having been buried with Him in baptism . . .”
 - b) Romans 6:4 “we have been buried with Him through baptism . . .”
- C. Baptism is symbolic
 - 1) Death - Going down into the water- “Baptized into His death” (Romans 6:3) – *Atonement for sin.*
 - 2) Burial - Down under the water or submerged- “Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death” (Romans 6:4a) - *Burial of the old sin nature.*
 - 3) Resurrection - Coming out of the water- “In order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life” (Romans 6:4b) – *New Life Now/Eternal Life Later*
 - (4) Spiritual Cleansing – Picture of washing - “Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name” (Acts 22:16) - *Forgiveness*
 - (5) New Birth - Picture of rebirth. “You must be born again” (John 3:7) – *New Birth.* Water is a symbol of birth/spiritual regeneration - “He saved us...by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit” (Titus 3:5, 2 Cor. 5:15-27) – *New Nature*

Conclusion: Baptism is symbolic and *only demonstrates* our salvation. Baptism in no way adds to, enhances, or makes possible our salvation. If we were in any way saved by baptism, we would then be saved by our own deeds.

4. How are we to be baptized?

- A. Biblical example
 - 1) Baptism in the New Testament was by immersion in water.
 - a) Matthew 3:16 - “And after being baptized, Jesus went up immediately from the water...”
 - b) Acts 8:38-39 - “and he baptized him. And when they came up out of the water...”
- B. The definition of the word
 - 1) The word “baptism” means “to dip, to immerse”.
 - a) Kittle’s Theological Dictionary of New Testament Words: “to dip in or under”
 - b) Thayer’s, Greek-English Lexicon: “to dip, dip in, immerse”

* Had these baptisms been by sprinkling or pouring, there would have been no need to go down into the water.

Conclusion: There is sound Biblical, grammatical and historical evidence for baptism by complete emersion.

5. Who may do the baptizing?

- A. Matthew 28:19 - A general command for all believers to “make disciples”, and does not stop them from baptizing those new believers they lead to Christ.
- B. Acts 8:38 - Philip, commonly called a deacon (Acts 6:5), baptized the new Ethiopian convert.
- C. Acts 9:18 - Ananias, simply called “a disciple” (Acts 9:10), Baptized the new convert Saul, later called Paul.
- D. 1 Corinthians 1:17 - Paul said, “Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel,...” Even as an Apostle and missionary, Paul did not say that only he could baptize but he left the joy to others.

Conclusion: Any believer who is walking in obedience to Christ and His Word may baptize another believer who is in need of being baptized. (Because of the principle of headship (Ephesians 5:23) and biblical leadership/submission (1 Peter 5:5/Hebrews 13:17), as well as the responsibility we have before the Lord in making sure the people we baptize are truly saved and born again, our preference as a church is for Elders or Dads to baptize)

6. When Should We Be Baptized?

- A. Acts 2:41 –
“So then, those who had received his word were baptized”
- B. Acts 8:12 –
“But when (or as) they believed. . .they were being baptized”
- C. Acts 9:15, 18 –
. . . Paul arose and was baptized as soon as he was able.”
- D. Acts 16:32-33 –
“and immediately he was baptized, he and all his household”

Conclusion: In Scripture the response to the command to be baptized was inextricably tied together with conversion and took place immediately after conversion. (Because all 10 examples of believer’s baptism in Scripture took place on the same day as conversion we believe and teach that the principle to be followed is to be baptized SOON after conversion as proof of conversion. But we stress that baptism is NOT a requirement for salvation (the Bible says only belief through repentance and faith are required to receive salvation as a gift) nor is baptism the source of salvation since Jesus’ blood & righteousness are what saves us)

Summary:

Baptism is an Important “S.T.E.P.”

Symbol of salvation (picture of the gospel: death, burial, resurrection, washing, and rebirth)

Testimony of faith in Jesus Christ (his disciple) to the body of believers (part of the church) to any unbelievers who attend (testimony)

Evidence of genuine salvation (Holy Spirit) of Jesus’ Lordship in your life (obedience to Christ and His Word)

Personal Confession

- that “ Jesus is Lord!”
- that “I am a Christian!”
- that “I am forgiven and have eternal life in Jesus!”
- that “I believe in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus”
- that “I have repented and died to my old life and living for self”
- that “I have faith and placed my trust in Jesus’ blood and righteousness to save me”
- that “I have new life now and eternal life later because I am a new creation in Jesus”

Baptism is... Picturing my salvation
Publicly declaring my faith
Proving my obedience to Christ

10 Examples of Believers Baptism in Scripture	
- No examples of infant baptism or sprinkling - All examples occur on the same day as conversion	
Reference	Occurrence
Acts 2:41	The 3000 who accepted Peter’s invitation were baptized that same day
Acts 8:12	The men and women who responded to Philip’s gospel message were baptized
Acts 8:13	Simon the Sorcerer believed and was baptized (possible occurrence of false profession & baptism - not 100% avoidable)
Acts 8:35-38	The Ethiopian eunuch believed with all his heart that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and was baptized the same day at the first site of water
Acts 9:18	Saul (Paul) was baptized three days after his introduction to Jesus, but the same day he received the Holy Spirit.
Acts 10:48	Cornelius’ household (Gentiles) believes Peter’s preaching as evidenced by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and they were baptized
Acts 16:14-15	Lydia from Philippi: the Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul, and she was baptized.
Acts 16:33	The Philippian jailer in charge of Paul and Silas is converted and he and his entire family are baptized that same night
Acts 18:8	Crispus, the Corinthian synagogue ruler, along with his household and many Corinthians heard, believed, and were baptized
Acts 19:1-7	12 Ephesian men who knew of John’s Baptism of repentance, believe on Christ Jesus and are baptized in his name

BAPTISM 101

Acts 2:41 “Those who
accepted his message
were baptized”

The Purpose of Baptism

1. To be obedient to Christ's command in Matthew 28:19-20
2. To show outward proof of your inward commitment (Acts 26:20, 1 John 2:3)
3. To publicly identify yourself as a Christian (Mark 8:38, Romans 1:16, Acts 18:8)

Baptism does not save you!!!

... know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. He is `the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone. ' Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

Jesus and His blood saves you!

Titus 3:4-7 But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

Baptism is a symbol



Receiving the gospel by making a confession of faith and repentance to God is similar to the vows of marriage that joins two together.

Baptism is like the wedding ring placed after the vows. It is a public proclamation, symbol, and reminder to us and others of our vow that binds us to Christ.

Baptism is a symbol



Romans 6:1-4

Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

- Life

- Death

- Birth

Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."

John 3:3

- Cleaning/Washing

And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be

baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.' Acts 22:16

Word Study of Baptism

907 baptivzw **baptizo** { **bap-tid'-zo**}

from a derivative of **911** bavptw **bapto** { **bap'-to**} meaning to dip, dip in, immerse

Translated: - “baptize” (76), “wash” (2), “baptist” (1), “baptized” (1)

Meaning:

- 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

History & Origin of Baptism

Old Testament

- Priests/Levitical Law
- Jewish Conversion

John the Baptist

- Repentance
- Prepared the way for the Lord

Jesus Christ

- Baptized by John the Baptist
- Commanded it as a sign to distinguish His followers

Church

- Immersion of believers

Baptism is like a photograph

Baptism is a picture showing that **REAL Christianity is a life of actions not just words (Titus 1:16)**

Baptism is a picture of love: **Jesus laid down his life for us out of love, not obligation – so we too must die to self and sin out of love returned to God (John 15:13)**

Baptism is a picture of the gospel: **our need to be washed clean from our sin (Matthew 1:21)**

Baptism is a picture of substitution: **Jesus took our place of death and punishment for sin (1 Peter 3:18, Romans 5:8, Galatians 2:20)**



Baptism is a REMINDER

Baptism is a reminder of our sinfulness and inability to cleanse ourselves (Romans 3:12, Ephesians 2:8-9)

Baptism is a reminder that it is one of the steps we take in following JESUS (1 Peter 2:21)

Baptism is a reminder of God's promise of complete forgiveness and inheritance of eternal life (1 John 2:25, Titus 1:2, 2 Timothy 2:11-13)



The symbolism of Baptism

The symbolism of baptism depicts Christ's death, burial, & resurrection and your decision to accept his sacrifice as your solution for sin

1. Going under the water: Jesus death and burial – our death to self and sin Galatians 2:20
2. Coming up through the water: Jesus washes away all our sins past, present , & future Colossians 1:13-14, 2:13
3. Coming out of the water: Our trust that because Jesus was raised from the dead, so shall we! 2 Corinthians 4:14
4. Out of the water: We are born again & no longer a slave to sin (Romans 6:7-8), but now able to live victoriously as a new creation in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17)

10 Examples of Adult Baptism in the Bible

0 Examples of Infant Baptism in the Bible

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Review of Baptism

WHO should be baptized?

WHY be baptized?

WHAT is the meaning of baptism?

HOW should one be baptized?

WHEN should I be baptized?