

I Declare!

Acts 2:41

Declaration: to say something in a solemn and emphatic manner. As a Christian, what does it mean to “declare” our faith in Jesus? The Bible says that baptism is a major part of this all-important declaration!

Why is Baptism Important? Jesus commanded it, Jesus practiced it, & the New Testament church did it, too.

“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,” **Matthew 28:19**

Jesus began His earthly ministry with baptism in the Jordan River.

“In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.” **Mark 1:9**

“So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.” **Acts 2:41**

Main Idea: Baptism is the Biblical Way to Publicly Declare my Personal Faith

I. Baptism Symbolizes Something Special

“John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” **Mark 1:4**

Why Do I Baptize By Immersion? Because Jesus was First!

“...baptized by John in (Greek preposition: into) the Jordan.” **Mark 1:9b**

“And when he came up out of the water...” **Mark 1:10a**

Consider more evidence of baptism by immersion by John the Baptist!

“John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, **because water was plentiful there, and people were coming and being baptized.**” **John 3:23**

Why is the method so important? Because the meaning of baptism is so important.

“Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his **death**? 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.” **Romans 6:3-4**

Baptism means something special because it is a symbolic PICTURE of the death, burial & resurrection of Christ (Gospel) & **if you change the method, you change the meaning!**

II. Baptism Portrays Something Powerful

Truth: The only kind of baptism ever mentioned in the Bible is “Believer’s Baptism.” Belief, then baptism, in that order.

“But when they **believed** Philip as he preached the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were **baptized, both men and women.**” **Acts 8:12**

A person is baptized because they have been saved, & they want to show that they have been saved to the whole world!

III. Baptism Awakens Something Amazing

As the Apostle Peter preached the gospel and people responded, it set off an avalanche of people getting saved, 3,000 in one single day!! But that is what happens when someone preaches the gospel and others declare what the Gospel has done in them by being baptized.

If you have never repented and placed your trust in Jesus:

- By faith, embrace the Gospel today
- Get signed up for baptism to publicly declare your personal faith!

If you have repented & believe in Jesus without publicly declaring it:

- Get signed up for baptism!

Truth: “Baptism is not necessary to be saved, but it is a very big deal!”

You DON’T HAVE to get baptized; YOU GET TO GET BAPTIZED!!!

Jesus Christ has earned our public confession by dying on the cross. The only question left is this: Will you publicly confess Jesus in biblical baptism???

Sources and Further Reading Opportunities:

- *The Wiersbe Bible Commentary* – Warren Wiersbe (2007)
- *Word Pictures in the New Testament* – A.T. Robertson (1933)
- *What’s the Big Deal about Baptism* – James Merritt
- *Swindoll’s Ultimate Book of Illustrations & Quotes* – Charles R. Swindoll (1998)
- *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology* – Walter A. Elwell (2001)