

Unashamed of the Gospel

Mark 1:9-11

“For whoever is ashamed of me & of my words in this adulterous & sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.” **Mark 8:38**

Main Idea: Baptism by immersion is the primary Biblical means by which a believer professes his or her faith in the crucified, risen Christ.

“Baptism was never supposed to be a barrier to the local church, but a bridge to the local church.” **Dr. James Merritt**

“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**

There are two extremes on the subject of baptism that the Bible won't allow:

- 1) Baptism is necessary to be saved, therefore it's a very big deal, or
- 2) Baptism is not necessary to be saved, so it's no big deal.

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

I. **How to Live Unashamed of the Gospel**

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

John would call people to **repentance** & **belief** in the coming Lord. They would respond to his call & he would baptize them as an outward sign of an inward repentance. He became so known for this practice that he earned a nickname: John the _____. Then the word took on a whole new idea.

How Was Jesus Baptized?

“...baptized by John **in** the Jordan.” **Mark 1:9b**

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

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

“For I am not ashamed of **the gospel**, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes...” **Romans 1:16a**

What is the Gospel? “Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, & by which you are being saved...that **Christ died** for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that **he was buried**, that **he was raised** on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.” **1 Corinthians 15:1-2a, 3b-4**

What does Baptism Symbolize? “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 is a Symbolic PICTURE of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, & if you change the method of Baptism, you change the meaning of Baptism!

II. **Who Should Live Unashamed of the Gospel?**

“So those who **received his word** were **baptized**,” **Acts 2:41a**

“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.” **Acts 8:12**

People were presented the Gospel. They responded to the Gospel & THEN were baptized. It is clear, however, that you do not have to be baptized in order to be saved. Water doesn't save anyone...

“...and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin” **1 John 1:7b**

A person is never baptized in order to be saved. A person is baptized because they have been saved & they want to live unashamed of the Gospel to the entire world! **It is our public profession of Jesus as Lord!**

Common Question: What does the Bible say about infant baptism? **Nothing**

III. **Why Should I Be Unashamed of the Gospel?**

Where are you today?

- Never repented & trusted in Jesus?
 - Embrace the Gospel today
 - Get baptized (Sept 30th, SalemChurchNYC.org/baptism)
- Repented & believed in Jesus, without being baptized
 - Get baptized (Sept 30th, SalemChurchNYC.org/baptism)

There is no biblical record of anyone ever getting saved & putting off baptism...**You don't HAVE to get baptized; you GET to get baptized!!!**

Embrace the Gospel Today and Get Baptized!

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)

