

Water Baptism

I. Three Areas of Controversy Surrounding Water Baptism

A. The _____ of Water Baptism

B. The _____ of Water Baptism

C. The _____ of Water Baptism

II. Short Survey of How Various Groups Define Baptism

A. The Roman Catholic Church

1. Because if baptism does something to save you—then salvation is no longer by _____ alone through _____ alone in _____ alone.

B. The Anglican or Episcopalian Church

1. Does baptism _____ something—or does it _____ something?
2. Because if it provides _____, if it produces _____— then we are adding something to the finished work of Christ.

C. The Lutheran Church of America

1. Jesus Christ alone is the _____ of grace; if baptism is required for salvation, then grace is no longer truly _____—it becomes tied to a _____ performed by man.

D. The Free Lutheran Church

1. If baptism is understood to save, then _____ should be baptized so they too can receive those saving benefits.
2. This entire position rests on one key assumption—that baptism actually _____ these things.
3. If baptism truly washes away sin, saves, and produces new birth, then the gospel becomes “faith + baptism”—but if Scripture teaches that salvation is by grace through faith alone, then baptism cannot be the _____; it must be something _____.

E. The Missouri Synod Lutheran Church

1. Forgiveness comes through Christ’s blood, the Holy Spirit is received by _____, and new birth comes through _____ the gospel—not through a _____.

Key Verse: 1 Corinthians 1:17-18; Romans 1:16-17

Key Words: Water Baptism, Salvation

2. So again, we must ask: is baptism the _____ of these realities, or the _____ of them?

F. The Mormon Church

1. In this view, salvation is not just faith plus baptism—it is also tied to _____, _____, and _____.
2. Historically, they take it a step further by allowing baptism on behalf of the _____.
3. Once baptism is viewed as a _____ of salvation, it opens the door to more _____, more _____, and more _____.

G. The Church of Christ

1. In this view, baptism is not the _____ of salvation but a _____ for it—so if a person believes but is not baptized, they would be considered not saved.
2. What is the gospel—_____ on the Lord Jesus Christ, or believe _____ additional requirements—because once you add to the gospel, it is no longer the gospel?

III. Believer's Water Baptism

A. Biblical Perspective

1. Water baptism cannot _____ the sinner, nor _____ the saint.

* When water baptism is viewed as necessary for salvation, three critical errors inevitably follow:

- 1) It violates and nullifies God's _____—because adding even one work to Christ's finished work on the cross implies that He has not done it all.
 - 2) It creates _____ of salvation—one in the Old Testament by faith alone, and another in the New Testament by faith plus baptism.
 - 3) It treats many clear salvation passages as _____, _____ baptism into verses that present the gospel simply and without it.
2. Water baptism was commanded for _____ - _____ believers and was practiced and perpetuated by the early church as a _____ that a sinner had received God's gift of salvation by grace.

* Who should be baptized?

- 1) The biblical pattern is clear—only those who have _____ the gospel, _____ it, and _____ it.

Key Verse: 1 Corinthians 1:17-18; Romans 1:16-17

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2) Baptism is a _____—and a testimony requires understanding and personal belief—the consistent pattern is salvation first, baptism second.

* Water Baptism in the Book of Acts — Practiced by...

1) _____ believers [Acts 2:41]

2) _____ believers [Acts 8:12]

3) _____ believers [Acts 10:48]

4) _____ of _____ [Acts 19:1-5].

3. Water baptism is the means by which a believer in Christ _____ *proclaims* their _____ and _____ with Him in His death, burial, and resurrection.

* What should be true before a person is baptized?

1) They must be _____! [Stated in Scripture]

2) They must _____ what water baptism _____ and why they are _____ it! [Implied in Scripture]

* What about church membership?

1) The New Testament does not present a _____ of church membership as commonly practiced today.

2) Scripture does not make water baptism a _____ for church membership, even though many churches do.

* What words should be used during water baptism?

1) The _____ we use around baptism matters: baptism does not save or cleanse sin; rather, it is a testimony, a declaration, and an _____ with Christ.

2) Water baptism is an act of _____ and a step of public testimony, keeping the focus where it belongs—on _____ and His _____.

3) There is no prescribed formula. At GTBC, we say, “Based upon your _____ of _____ in Jesus Christ, I now baptize you in the name of _____.”

* What are some misinterpreted passages?

o Mark 16:15-16; John 3:3-7; Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; Titus 3:3-7; Luke 18:15-17

Key Verse: 1 Corinthians 1:17-18; Romans 1:16-17

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