

What is Baptism?

Baptism is an ordinance or outward rite which "Christ has appointed to be administered in His Church as a visible sign of the saving truth of the Gospel." In other words baptism is an outward expression of our inward confession of Jesus Christ as Lord.

Romans 10:9-10

That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. [10] For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

At the moment of baptism, a believer makes a heart/mind commitment to Christ, whose death is the means of his redemption and whose life will be the continuing "dynamic" of his career.

Baptism is a symbol of one's union by faith with Christ in death, burial and resurrection.

Romans 6:3-11

Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?... [5] If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection... [9] For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. [10] The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. [11] In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Who Should be Baptized?

The early church obeyed the Lord's command (Matthew 28:19-20.) Jews were baptized (Acts 2:41-42); Samaritans were baptized (Acts 8:12); Gentiles were baptized (Acts 10:44-48); Paul was baptized (Acts 9:18); Lydia was baptized (Acts 16:14-15) to name only a few. In all cases, belief in Christ and His finished work on Calvary preceded baptism. "But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike." (Acts 8:12)

There is no reason to delay. As soon as an individual has put his faith in Christ and evidences an authentic change in life-style, he should publicly identify with Christ in water baptism.

Acts 8:35-38

Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the

good news about Jesus. [36] As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?' [37] Philip said, 'If you believe with all your heart, you may.' The eunuch answered, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.' [38] And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.

Acts 16:30-33

He then brought them out and asked, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?' [31] They replied, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved--you and your household.' [32] Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. [33] At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized.

How Should We Be Baptized?

We believe in water baptism by immersion for the following reasons:

1. The meaning of the original word "Baptizo" was to immerse, to dip, to sink, to submerge, to plunge. Every passage where the word occurs in the New Testament either requires or allows the meaning "immerse." Matthew 3:6,11; Mark 1:5,9; Acts 2:41, 16:29-33
2. You will find the use of the preposition "into" and "in" used with the verb "baptize" but not the preposition "upon." "Into" speaks of the element (water) into which the person passes. "In" speaks of the element (water) in which the baptizing takes place.
3. Circumstances strongly indicate that there was always sufficient water on hand to permit immersion to be practiced. Mark 1:10; John 3:23; Acts 8:38,39.

Church history supports immersion. Martin Luther said, "I would have those who are to be baptized to be entirely immersed, as the word imparts and the mystery signifies." John Wesley concurred, "Buried with Him, alluding to baptizing by immersion according to the custom of the first church."

Why Should We Be Baptized?

We obey the Lord in water baptism to follow the example of Jesus Christ. "Jesus...was baptized by John in the Jordan." (Mark 1:9-11); to heed the

instructions of Christ, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit," (Matthew 28:19); and to evidence in an outward manner that we identify with Christ in His death and in His life. "Therefore, we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, 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 6:4). Our loyalty and obedience to Christ and His Word confirm our commitment to Him, (1 John 2:3).

Baptism is...
Communion with Christ
Carrying out of all righteousness
Copying the pattern of Christ
Confessing to all present my allegiance to Christ

(Please detach and turn into the Pastor Jim's Office)

After prayerfully and carefully searching my own heart and the Scriptures, it is my desire to publicly confess my faith in Christ through water baptism.

(Please print your name here)

(Signature) Date: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone #: _____ Birthdate: _____

Application for Water Baptism



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Matthew 28:19-20

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."