



WHAT IS THE IMPORTANCE OF BAPTISM?

MATTHEW 28:19-20

Introduction:

Baptism- To submerge something in liquid.

How many of you have been baptized?

What do you remember about your baptism?

Baptism is one of two ordinances that Jesus instituted for the church. Just before His ascension, Jesus said, “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (**Matthew 28:19–20**).

These instructions say that the church is responsible to teach Jesus’ word, make disciples, and baptize those disciples. These things are to be done everywhere (“all nations”) until “the very end of the age.” So, if for no other reason, baptism has importance because Jesus commanded it.

- As he trained his followers, Jesus instructed them to baptize everyone they taught.

John the Baptist used baptism to prepare the way of the Lord, requiring everyone, not just Gentiles, to be baptized because everyone needs repentance.

Baptism should cause us to repent. John's Baptism was to repentance.

Repentance=turning from the direction of sin and turn towards God. **(2 Chronicles 7:14)** My people, who are called by my name, should humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face and **turn** from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive our sin, and will heal the land.

True repentance requires us to turn from our wicked ways.

Baptism is to be done in the name of the Father, Son, and Spirit—this is what makes it “Christian” baptism. It is through this ordinance that a person is **admitted into the fellowship of the church**. **When we are saved, we are “baptized” by the Spirit into the Body of Christ, which is the church**. First **Corinthians 12:13** says, “We were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.” Baptism by water is a “reenactment” of the

Baptism is the means by which **a person makes a public profession of faith and discipleship**. In the waters of baptism, a person says, wordlessly, “I confess faith in Christ; Jesus has cleansed my soul from sin, and I now have a new life of sanctification.”

Baptism is symbolic, it represents, the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. At the same time, it also illustrates our death to sin and new life in Christ. Being submerged in the water represents death to sin, and emerging from the water represents the cleansed, holy life that follows salvation. **Romans 6:4** puts it this way: “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.”

Very simply, baptism is an outward testimony of the inward change in a believer's life. Baptism is an act of obedience to the Lord **after** salvation; although baptism is closely associated with salvation, **it is not a requirement to be saved**. The Bible shows that there is an order to baptism. **1)** A person believes in the Lord Jesus and **2)** Then is baptized.

A new believer in Jesus Christ should desire to be baptized as soon as possible. In **(Acts 8)** Philip speaks “the good news about Jesus” to the Ethiopian eunuch, and “as they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, ‘**Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?’**” **(Verses 35–36)**. **Right away**, they stopped the chariot, and **Philip baptized the man**.

Baptism illustrates a believer's identification with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. Everywhere the gospel is preached, and people are drawn to faith in Christ, they are to be baptized.

Who should be baptized?

- All believers

Was Jesus Baptized? Yes.

- Jesus was baptized to launch his public Ministry.

How many times should we get baptized?

- We are baptized only one time.

Is baptism necessary for salvation? no

- baptism is an important step of obedience for a Christian, but I reject baptism as being required for salvation.
- To say that baptism is necessary for salvation is to say we must add our own good works and obedience to Christ's death in order to make it sufficient for salvation.
- baptism is an important step of obedience after salvation but cannot be a requirement for salvation.

What is the power of Baptism?

- Baptism is not magic.
- Just being baptized does not automatically put us into a relationship with Jesus.
- What gives Baptism its power is the trust we have in God.

Conclusion:

- Baptism is a washing in water to symbolize the actions of the Holy Spirit in a believer's heart. Different churches practice different ways of baptism, but all who follow Christ should be baptized, because it is a commandment by God.
- Baptism does not save a person. It does not matter if you were baptized by immersion, pouring, or sprinkling - if you have not first trusted in Christ for salvation, baptism **(no matter the method)** is meaningless and useless.
- Baptism is not necessary for salvation. Baptism does not save from sin but from a bad conscience. In **(1 Peter 3:21)**, Peter clearly taught that baptism was not a ceremonial act of physical purification, but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. Baptism is the symbol of what has already occurred in the heart and life of one who has trusted Christ as Savior **(Romans 6:3-5; Galatians 3:27; Colossians 2:12)**. Baptism is an important step of obedience that every Christian should take. Baptism cannot be a requirement for salvation. To make it such is an attack on the sufficiency of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- Baptism marks the beginning of a new walk with him. Why not begin that walk today?

