

WHY? COMMANDED

1. Baptism is a COMMAND to OBEY

Acts 2:37-38

“Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 22:12-16

2. However, Baptism is NOT NECESSARY for salvation

Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Luke 23:43

And he said to [the criminal], “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

WHO? BELIEVERS

1. Baptism is ONLY for BELIEVERS

Acts 8:12

“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.”

WHEN? NOW

1. Believers were baptized IMMEDIATELY

Acts 16:31-33

And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.” And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family.

WHAT? OUTWARD SYMBOL OF AN INWARD REALITY

1. Baptism symbolizes [inward]:

- a. PURIFICATION from SIN

Acts 22:16

“And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.”

a. UNION with CHRIST

Romans 6:3-4

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.

2. Baptism is a public [outward]:

a. SUBMISSION to the AUTHORITY of Christ

Matthew 28:19-20

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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

b. PROFESSION of our FAITH in Christ

Matthew 10:32-33

So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

c. COMMITMENT to the PEOPLE of Christ

1 Corinthians 12:13

For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

HOW? IMMERSION

1. Baptism should be by IMMERSION

Mark 1:10

“And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.”

John 3:23

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

“When a baptism candidate goes down in the water it is a picture of going down into the grave and being buried. Coming up out of the water is then picture of being raised with Christ to walk in newness of life. Baptism thus very clearly pictures death to one’s old way of life and rising to a new kind of life in Christ. But baptism by sprinkling or pouring simply misses this symbolism.” - **Wayne Grudem**

3 questions we will ask you during your baptism:

1. Why do you want to be baptized?
2. Do you confess your faith in Jesus Christ as your Saviour, submit to him as Lord, and trust him for the forgiveness of your sin?
3. Do you commit, in full dependance on his grace and the power of his Spirit, to obey Jesus in the fellowship of his church as long as you live?