

BELIEVER BAPTISM BY IMMERSION

*“TO BE OR NOT TO BE?
THAT IS THE QUESTION.”*



*“WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED
AS AN ADULT?”*

AN EXPLANATION & APPLICATION

An Explanation of Baptism

We believe in baptism by immersion. Jesus was baptized in the waters of the Jordan River. He commanded his followers to be baptized as well. The Greek word “Baptizo” means “to dip,” never to sprinkle or pour. The Lord’s first work and last command was to be baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Baptism is an act of personal obedience to Jesus Christ and one example of following in his steps. Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist to “fulfill all righteousness.” It does not wash away sins, nor make us new creatures, nor fill us with the Holy Spirit. Paul explained the symbolic meaning of baptism in **Romans 6:3-4**.

3 Do you not know, that as many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? 4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5 If we have been united together in the likeness of his death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of his resurrection: 6 Knowing this, that our old man was crucified with him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer serve sin. 7 For he that is dead has been freed from sin. 8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: 9 Knowing that Christ having been raised from the dead dies no more; death no longer has dominion over him. 10 For the death that he died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that he lives, He lives to God. 11 Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive to God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Baptism is an outward sign of an inward work that has already taken place. Baptizing is done by laying the person under the water backward, to symbolize death of our old lives. It is like a burial of the past. Then being lifted out of the water is like being raised from the dead and made alive in newness of life.

All of those being baptized will share a brief word of testimony of their experience in receiving Christ as Savior. Then they will answer two baptismal questions, as has been the custom of the church throughout the centuries. Then they will be baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost according to the instructions of Jesus Christ in Matthew 28:19.

“Go therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.. Amen”

Questions and Answers

- What is Baptism?
Baptism was instituted by our Lord when he submitted to be baptized by John. He taught his disciples to baptize new believers, in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of faith and obedience in Jesus as Lord and Savior.
- Does Baptism Save Me?
Baptism or any other work that we do cannot save us. We are saved only by putting our complete trust in the Lord Jesus Christ and believing his death on the cross was in our place and can remove our sins, and that he alone is able to save us from sin and take us to heaven.
- Why Should I Be Baptized?
If baptism does not save me, then why bother? The Lord's Supper (Communion) does not save us either but we do it because Christ commanded it and exemplified it. The same is true of all the commands of Christ. They do not save, but saved people who love the Lord naturally want to please him in all things.
- How Should I Be Baptized?
Historically people have used many methods of baptism (sprinkle, pour, immerse). We should not become legalistic about the means. However, the example of Christ and John the Baptist serve us well. Jesus was immersed in water, as was the Ethiopian Eunuch of Acts 8. Paul's description of death to the old, and resurrection to the new as symbolic in baptism fits that metaphor (Romans 6:3-4) . Therefore, we baptize by immersion whenever possible.
- What If I Have Been Baptized as an Infant?
There are no New Testament examples of infants being baptized. Believers only, who have repented and can give a testimony of God's saving grace should be baptized. That is why we call it "believer's baptism." If you were baptized as an infant we do not disregard that as unimportant. It was valid for the purpose of the parents dedicating you to God, but it is not believer baptism.
- How Old Does One Have to Be to be Baptized?
Age is not an issue in the New Testament, but repentance and faith in Christ are. It is important that any child being baptized can articulate a true testimony of personal faith in Christ. Also the child should be of sufficient age as to clearly understand and remember this important event. Certainly before the age of accountability one should be careful
- What If I Was Baptized in Another Church?
Any evangelical church which baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are considered believer baptism. You need not be re-baptized.

A Study of Water Baptism

1. Just before he returned to his Father in heaven, Jesus said to his followers:

“Go and make disciples of all nations.” (Matthew 28:19)

What did people everywhere become? D_____ of Jesus.

2. Jesus continued by saying:

“...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.” (Matthew 28:19-20)

What are the two things which Jesus told his followers to do for the new believers? They are to _____ them and to _____ them.

3. Who commanded believers to be baptized? _____.

4. If the Lord Jesus commanded baptism and you have never been baptized, is it important that you should be? Yes No

Now, let's look at the meaning of baptism.

5. When you first believed in Jesus all your sins were forgiven. The Bible says: *“...the blood of Jesus... purifies us from all sin.”* (1 John 1:7)

When Jesus died on the cross, it was to lead us to God. He forgives our sins and p_____ our hearts.

6. When Paul believed in the Lord Jesus as his Savior and Lord, God spoke to him through a man called Ananias and said:

“Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.” (Acts 22:16)

So in baptism we use water as a sign of cleansing.

Answers

1. Disciples
2. baptize / teach
3. Jesus

4. Yes
5. purifies
6. purifies / sin

It is a sign others can see, which **stands** for Jesus p_____ our hearts from _____.

7. Just as water washes our bodies, so the blood of Christ p_____ our hearts from _____.

8. What is it that purifies our hearts from sin? The _____ of _____

9. The Bible says:

“Everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.” (Acts 10:43)

When are we purified from sin? (Mark the correct one)

- a. When we go to church.
- b. When we believe in Christ.
- c. When we are baptized.

10. We are not purified at the moment of our baptism but when we _____ in _____.

11. God forgives our sins at the moment that we believe in Christ and receive him into our life. Our hearts cannot be purified by something which only touches our outward bodies.

This is the reason why baptism by itself does NOT bring forgiveness of sin and cleansing. It is a sign to everybody around us that our hearts have been purified from sin when we received Christ into our heart by faith. When we are baptized, we are saying to all people, “God has made my heart clean just like this water makes my body clean.”

Why does God forgive us? (Mark the correct one)

- a. Because we are baptized.
- b. Because we have done nothing wrong.
- c. Because we believe in Christ and his blood purifies us.

12. What does baptism represent? _____ from _____.

Answers

7. purifies / sin
8. blood / Christ
9. b.

10. believe / Christ
11. c.
12. purifying / sin

13. Baptism is a visible sign of the purifying that God gives. Something invisible is something we cannot see. So something visible is something we can _____.

14. As we cannot see inside our hearts, purifying from sin is something invisible. Of this purifying, baptism is a v_____ sign.

15. So, baptism does not make us pure from sin; on the contrary, it: (Mark the correct one)

- ___ a. is something that no one sees; it happens inside us.
- ___ b. is a visible sign to others that God has purified our heart from sin.
- ___ c. is unimportant.

16. From where is our sin washed away? (Mark the correct one)

- ___ a. From within our heart.
- ___ b. From the outside of the body only.
- ___ c. From the part touched by the water of baptism.

17. What is the visible sign that represents this inward purifying?

18. When are we purified from sin?

When we _____ in Jesus.

19. The time of a person's baptism is a happy one to be remembered. Our heart should be filled with joy and praise to the Lord for forgiving ALL our sins by the blood of the Lord Jesus shed for us on the cross of Calvary. Furthermore, the whole congregation should be excited by the things the Lord has done. What does baptism stand for?

20. Who has commanded us to be baptized? _____

Answers

- 13. see
- 14. visible
- 15. b.
- 16. a.

- 17. Baptism
- 18. believe
- 19. Purifying from our sins
- 20. Christ

*Why not take some time right now to thank God for cleansing you from sin!
Baptism also stands for other great spiritual truths but we cannot deal with them all in one lesson. As you read your Bible, you will learn more and more. Here are some further Bible passages you could read about baptism.*

REVIEW

A sign of cleaning from sin:

- Acts 2:38
- Hebrews 10:22
- 1 Peter 3:21

Identifies us with Christ:

- Galatians 3:27
- Romans 6:3-6
- Colossians 2:12

1. Who commanded us to be baptized?

2. What does baptism stand for?

3. At what moment are we cleansed from sin?

4. What is the visible sign of this cleansing?

Baptismal Service Preparations

This is just a reminder that the Baptismal Service will be held on the previously announced Sunday. You will need to arrive early so as to meet and arrange your clothes for after the baptism. Here is a short list of things to bring with you.

MEN

- To wear - long slacks or jeans and a dress shirt, preferably white. Check your pockets to be sure you don't dunk your wallet, cash or other water-soluble items.
- To bring - A TOWEL, a fresh change of clothes, including underwear.
- Optional - footwear: sneakers or go barefoot (no flip-flops as they tend to create suction and may trip you).

WOMEN

- To wear - long slacks or jeans (no dresses or skirts or shorts) One piece bathing suit as under garments. A white or light colored blouse.
- To bring - A TOWEL! A fresh change of clothes including underwear.
- Optional - Footwear: sneakers or go barefoot (no thongs as they tend to create suction and may trip you. Handkerchief to cover you nose if you wish.

DO NOT TOUCH THE MICROPHONE!

Your Testimony

Remember that you will be asked to give a brief testimony of your conversion experience when and how you came to know Jesus Christ as your Savior. This is always an important part of the service and is a real testimony to family and friends who may be attending. No need to be long winded. Just 1 to 3 minutes will do. WHEN, WHERE, and HOW it came about is enough. Write it out and carry it on a note card if you wish.

Baptismal Questions

The pastor will ask you two questions about your faith in Christ. For instance: "Are you sure beyond a shadow of a doubt that you have been born again?" or "If you were to die today, are you sure beyond a shadow of a doubt that you would go to heaven?" and "Is it your desire to follow Jesus all the days of your life?" Just answer with the appropriate "YES."

Dunking

It is important that you relax (You will not drown!) The pastor will say,

"I BAPTIZE YOU IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER,
AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY GHOST."

At that moment you will be holding your right wrist with your left hand. He will grasp your arm with his right hand, and with his other arm behind you and gently lower you backward into the water. (You may hold or cover your nose) DO NOT STIFFEN - RELAX! Let the pastor do the work. It only takes two seconds - hold your breath.

BAPTISMAL REQUEST FORM

We ask you to fill out the baptismal request form so that we know your name and something about you. Of particular importance to us is that you know with all assurance that you have been “born again” through faith in Jesus Christ. During the baptismal service you will be asked to share your story of how and when you came to receive Jesus Christ as your personal Savior. In so doing you are encouraging others to surrender their lives to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. This testimony should not be longer than 3 minutes.

Please fill out this Baptismal Request and turn it in to the Church Office as soon as possible.

Full Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City and State, Zip: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Church Affiliation: _____

Please write out your personal testimony of how and when you came to know Jesus as your Savior, and what that means to you. Use the back of the sheet if needed.

Return this form to:

Grove City Alliance Church
845 North Liberty Road
Grove City, PA 16127
Phone (724) 458-8497

