



An Overview of Baptism

I. What is Baptism?

- 1) A public pronouncement of your faith
 - Think of it like a “visual sermon.” You’re displaying your faith to others
 - **Acts 18:8** *Crispus, the synagogue leader, and his entire household believed in the Lord; and many of the Corinthians who heard Paul believed and were baptized.*
- 2) It represents a break from the past and an entrance into a new life
 - **2 Corinthians 5:17** *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!*
 - **Romans 6:4** *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.*
- 3) It signifies a union with Christ
 - **Romans 6:3 & 5** *Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his.*
 - Think of the imagery of a wedding ring

II. What is the Significance of Baptism?

- 1) It's a picture of Christ's burial and resurrection
 - **1 Corinthians 15:3-4** *For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,*
- 2) It pictures the cleansing of sin
 - **Acts 22:14-16** *“Then he (Ananias) said (to Saul): ‘The God of our ancestors has chosen you to know his will and to see the Righteous One and to hear words from his mouth. 15 You will be his witness to all people of what you have seen and heard. 16 And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.’*
- 3) It pictures our new life in Christ
 - **2 Corinthians 5:17** *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!*
- 4) Baptism doesn't make you a believer; you are baptized because you are a believer.

III. Why be Baptized?

1) Christ commands it

- **Matthew 28:18-20** *Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

2) Out of a desire to follow Christ's example

- **Mark 1:9** *At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.*

3) It unites us with Christ (Romans 6:3)

IV. How Should I be Baptized? What is the Method?

1) In the New Testament the Greek word "*baptizo*" (transliterated as "baptize" in our English Bibles) means literally to immerse, dip under, submerge

2) All the baptisms we read about in the New Testament were by immersion (the word "*baptizo*" was used each time)

3) Baptism is a great picture of our death to old self and rising again to new life.

V. What if I Was Sprinkled as a Child? What Should I Do?

First, you should be grateful that you had parents who cared enough about you to set you apart for God. Because of their devotion, you have an opportunity to complete their prayer by willingly submitting to Christ in His call to you to be immersed.

Second, being immersed is not a sign of disrespect for what your parents did, nor is it an act of condemnation toward them. The very opposite is true: it should be seen as the fulfillment of their prayers and best desires for you.

Be thankful for the heritage of concerned parents, but don't be negligent of your responsibility as an adult to make your personal commitment and obedience to God in baptism.

Many who are now members of this church were sprinkled as infants and then, upon coming to personal faith, were immersed into Christ. God has led you to this point and we pray that you will take this step as soon as possible.

What is God asking you to do regarding baptism?