



Understanding Baptism

WHAT IS BAPTISM?

Water baptism is not necessary for salvation. It does not atone for sin. Only the blood of Christ cleanses us from sin. Water baptism then, is NOT for salvation, but for obedience to a command by God concerning discipleship.

Colossians 1:14

In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Titus 3:5

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit.

Water baptism is clearly a PICTURE or FIGURE or TYPE of something which already took place in the heart of the believer the moment he/she was saved. Water baptism is the ordinance representing the identification of the Christian with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. You are "crucified" (standing upright in water), you are "buried" (immersed into the water), and you are "resurrected into life" (raised out of the water). It is the outward testimony of the believer's inward faith. A sinner is saved the moment he places his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Baptism is a visible testimony to that faith.

Romans 6:3-5

Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? ⁴ Therefore we were buried with Him through 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 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be *in the likeness of His* resurrection,

1 Peter 3:21

There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,



WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

The Bible makes it clear that scriptural water baptism is Believer's baptism (only for those who have already trusted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior). In the New Testament we observe that people first believe the Gospel and receive salvation then they follow the command of water baptism.

Acts 2:41

Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added *to them*.

Acts 16:30-34

And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" ³¹ So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." ³² Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. ³³ And he took them the same hour of the night and washed *their stripes*. And immediately he and all his *family* were baptized. ³⁴ Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household.

HOW SHOULD WE BE BAPTIZED?

Immersion (full body submersion) in water is the only scriptural method of baptism, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Acts 8:38-39

So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. ³⁹ Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing.

Matthew 28:19

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,