



Baptism's Biblical Foundation

Genesis 17; Colossians 2; Exodus 30; John 13; 1 Corinthians 6; Titus 3; Hebrews 10

Believer's Baptism is a symbolic discipline for living in relational covenant with God. It confirms to our own hearts and to those who witness it our total dedication of every aspect of life to God. We witness God's grace through salvation in Christ and commit to a life-long

journey of increasing trust in the Holy Spirit's work in and through our lives.

John's Baptism

Luke 3

Believer's Baptism is not about religious ceremony. It is a time to surrender who you were in the past, to secure who you will be in the future, and to settle into the love and work of God in and through your life today.

Jesus' Baptism and Teaching

Matthew 3; Matthew 28

Believer's Baptism is not about the cleansing of the body. It's not even ultimately about the cleansing of the soul (for Christ was without sin). It is about living within God's eternal pleasure found in the wonders of His covenant and passing the joy of that relational fellowship to the next generation.

The Early Church's Baptism

Acts 2; Acts 22; Romans 6

Believer's Baptism is a sonata underscored with the continuing melody of history. It is a composite masterpiece rich in the overtures of eternity. But at its heart, it is simply the music of today. It is the daily reality of dying to ourselves each moment only to find a resurrection in Christ awaiting us. A resurrection into a newness of life that secures our hearts in a lush, cool, garden, speaking to God face to face as a friend speaks to a friend. It is life!

The Baptism of the Apostolic Church

"In Acts we are told that people were baptized as soon as they were converted. This was feasible in the early Christian community, where most converts came from Judaism or had been influenced by it, and thus had a basic understanding of the meaning of Christian life and proclamation. But, as the Church became increasingly Gentile, it was necessary to require a period of preparation, trial, and instruction prior to baptism. By the beginning of the third century, this time of instruction and examination lasted three years and culminated with an Easter morning baptism service." Historian, Justo L. Gonzalez

Believer's Baptism is essentially obedience to God as illustrated in Christ and revealed by the Holy Spirit. But it is an obedience of life and not just words. It is the seeds of our soul rooted in God, evidenced by fruit revealed in the daily grind. Baptism is the beginning of a life devoted to God, but it is first the culmination of those devotions. We cannot proceed blindly. We purpose to be in God.

Baptism's Role in Salvation

1 Peter 1; Ephesians 2; Hebrews 9; 1 Corinthians 1

Salvation is a fluid reality. It is a once and forever concept. We were saved, we will be saved, and we are being saved. In this big-picture view of eternal salvation, the physical act of baptism plays a crucial role. It is a place of surrender. The surrender of the body in obedience to and emulation of Christ. The surrender of the will in trusting Christ for new birth and new life. It marks a certain and tangible time in the story of our life where our minds rest in the finality of death to self and in the eternity of resurrection with Christ. It catapults our hearts into the everlasting promise of a heavenly future with God. It leads our wills daily in the perpetual reality of moment-to-moment rejuvenation through the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Baptism is a submersion into the historical foundation, the future hope, and the daily walk in covenant with God.

We may never understand all the mysterious intricacies of God's gift and command of baptism. Still, my prayer is that we may embrace the beauty and majesty afforded us in His revelation. As we – in trust, obedience, and surrender – follow Christ down into the water, we open our lives to the daily baptismal work of the Holy Spirit. As we – in humility, confidence, and purpose – follow Christ up out of the water, we join Him as ambassadors of reconciliation. "Go therefore and make disciples...baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..."

The Act of Baptism

Colossians 2:12; Acts 8:26-39; 1 Peter 3:21; Acts 2:38; 1 John 1:9; Romans 6:4; John 8:12

Baptism is a sign.

A sign of gratitude and obedience to God.

A sign to ourselves that we are to daily die to our old life in sin and rise again to a new life in Jesus.

A sign to show others that we have trusted our whole life to Jesus.

This sign is accomplished by the one being baptized going down into the water while the one doing the baptizing dips them under the water for a short moment.

There's nothing special about the water, but it is extremely special to follow Jesus into a life that honors God the Father in this manner.

This one-time physical act is to be a reminder of a daily commitment to live all of life in the fellowship of relationship with God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.



To continue the conversation, email
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