

Overview:

Baptism is one of two symbols Jesus left with us, the other being the Lord's Supper. Obeying the Lord in baptism is a wonderful blessing we should emphasize as soon as someone is saved. Although baptism is very simple, the symbol has been distorted and confused through sprinkling of babies and teaching baptism is necessary for salvation.

Outline

I. Why should believers be baptized?

- A. Jesus was baptized. (Matthew 3:13-15)
- B. Jesus commanded it. (Matthew 28:19)
- C. It's a public testimony of our identity in Christ.
 1. Acts 2:38; 10:48 "in the name of Jesus"
 2. Matthew 10:32 "before men"
- D. It's a picture that our old self died with Christ is gone and a new life has begun.
 1. Romans 6:1-6 "buried"
 2. Colossians 2:12 "buried . . . raised"

II. When should believers be baptized?

- A. Occurred at Pentecost, immediately (Acts 2:41)
- B. For those who received the Holy Spirit. (Acts 10:47,48)
- C. Romans 6 & Colossians 2 – When did that happen?

III. Who can baptize others?

- A. Anyone to whom the Great Commission applies (Matthew 28:19)
- B. Not an exclusive duty of pastors or priests (1 Corinthians 1:14-17)
- C. All believers are priests. (1 Peter 2:9)

IV. How should believers be baptized?

- A. Greek word "baptizo" means "to dip or immerse"
- B. "up out of the water" (Mark 1:9,10)
- C. "Went down into the water" (Acts 8:38,39)
- D. "in the river" (Matthew 3:5,6; John 3:23)

V. Baptism is the first step of obedience after being saved.

- A. 3,000 people (Acts 2:41)
- B. Ethiopian official (Acts 8:35-38)
- C. Paul (Acts 9:17-19)
- D. Philippian jailer (Acts 16:32,33)

VI. Baptism does not help us obtain salvation.

- A. Baptism is not a part of the gospel (1 Corinthians 1:17)
- B. Our righteous acts of obedience do not save us. (Titus 3:5, Romans 4)
- C. Faith in Jesus Christ is the only means of salvation. (Acts 16:31)
- D. Heart, mouth (Romans 10:9,10)

VII. Hard Verses

- A. 1 Peter 3:21,22 "saves us"
- B. Acts 2:38 "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins."
- C. Infant Baptism (household =oikos)
 1. Acts 16:15 (Lydia) When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. "If you consider me a believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us.
 2. Acts 16:31 (Philippian jailer) They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved--you and your household."
 3. Acts 18:8 Crispus, the synagogue ruler, and his entire household believed in the Lord; and many of the Corinthians who heard him believed and were baptized.
- D. 1 Corinthians 15:29 refers to those who were saved and baptized **because** of the testimony of loved ones who were martyred. Because of their new faith in Christ, they fully expected to see their loved ones again. This was futile if there's no resurrection.
- E. 1 Corinthians 12:12,13 "baptism of the Holy Spirit"
- F. Danger of building elaborate doctrines on obscure verses.

Supporting Material:

Verses:

Matthew 3:13-15

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. ¹⁴But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"

¹⁵Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented.

Matthew 28:19

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,

Acts 2:37-40

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

³⁸Peter replied, "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. ³⁹The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off--for all whom the Lord our God will call."

⁴⁰With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." ⁴¹ Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

Acts 10:47-48

47 Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have."

48 So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.

Matthew 10:32

Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven.

Romans 6:1-6

3 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

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.

Colossians 2:12

having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.

1 Corinthians 1:14-17

14 I am thankful that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, 15 so no one can say that you were baptized into my name.

16 (Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don't remember if I baptized anyone else.

17 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel.

1 Peter 2:9

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

Mark 1:9-10

9 At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.

Acts 8:35-38

35 Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

36 As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?"

37 And he gave orders to stop the chariot. then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.

Matthew 3:5-6

5 People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. 6 Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

John 3:23

Now John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because there was plenty of water, and people were constantly coming to be baptized.

Acts 9:17-19

17 Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord- Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here - has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

18 Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized,

19 and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

Acts 16:31-33

They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved -- you and your household." 32 Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house.

33 At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized.

Titus 3:5

he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,

Romans 4:9-12,16

Is this blessedness only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? We have been saying that Abraham's faith was credited to him as righteousness. ¹⁰Under what circumstances was it credited? Was it after he was circumcised, or before? It was not after, but

before! ¹¹And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. So then, he is the father of all who believe but have not been circumcised, in order that righteousness might be credited to them. ¹²And he is also the father of the circumcised who not only are circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.

¹⁶Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring--not only to those who are of the law but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all.

Romans 10:9-10

9 That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

1 Peter 3:21-22

21 and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also--not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

22 who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand--with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

1 Corinthians 12:12-13

13 For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body--whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free-- and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

1 Corinthians 15:29

Now if there is no resurrection, what will those do who are baptized for the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized for them?

References:

Building Convictions -- Baptism. Herschel Martindale, SVCC Tape Library.

The Anabaptist Story, William Estep. Eerdmans Pub. Co. 1975.

Quotes:

"I would have those who are to be baptized to be entirely immersed, as the word imports and the mystery signifies."

Martin Luther

"The word 'baptize' signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the ancient church."

John Calvin

"Buried with him, alludes to baptizing by immersion according to the custom of the first church."

John Wesley