

CHRISTIAN WATER BAPTISM

I. DEFINITION OF THE WORD: "BAPTIZE"

The word "baptize" is a transliteration from the Greek word "baptizo." To dip, to plunge, to immerse. To put into or under water so as to entirely immerse or submerge, as when one dyes a garment. Vines Expository Dictionary

Mk. 1:5 *And all the country of Judea was going out to him, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins.*

John 3:23 *John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was much water there;*

II. THREE ASPECTS OF WATER BAPTISM or THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

- A. Candidate: Person being baptized.
- B. Officiate: Person doing the baptizing.
- C. Medium: Substance into which we are baptized.

III. WHY PRACTICE WATER BAPTISM?

- A. Jesus commanded church leaders to baptize all His disciples

Matt. 28:18-20- *¹⁸And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

- B. Jesus connected water baptism to being saved

Mark 16:16 *"He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.*

- C. Jesus, who is always our example, was baptized

Matt. 3:13-17 *Then Jesus arrived from Galilee at the Jordan coming to John, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴But John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I have need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?" ¹⁵But Jesus answering said to him, "Permit it at this time; for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he permitted Him.*

- D. The Apostles commanded water baptism

Acts 2:37-47 *Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?" ³⁸Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ...⁴⁰And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation!" ⁴¹So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.*

Acts 10:44-48 *While Peter was still speaking these words, ^(A) the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message. All the circumcised believers who came with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. ⁴⁶For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God. Then Peter answered, "Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we did, can he?" ⁴⁸And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.*

- E. Water Baptism is a demonstration of love toward God because it is the keeping His commandments. We know He loves us, the real question is do we love Him.

Jn. 14:15 *If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. (John 14:21; 14:23; 14:24; 14:31; 15:10;)*

1 Cor. 7:19 *Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but what matters is the keeping of the commandments of God.*

- F. Water baptism helps show a person's faith as genuine

James 2:17-18 *Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself. ¹⁸But someone may well say, "You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works."*

IV. WHO IN THE BIBLE WAS BAPTIZED?

- A. All who want God's purpose fulfilled in life

Luke 7:30 *But the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected God's purpose for themselves, not having been baptized by John.*

- B. The Samaritans in Phillip's ministry

Acts 8:12 ¹²But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike.

C. Ethiopian Eunuch in Phillip's ministry

Acts 8:35-38- ³⁵Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him. ³⁶As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?" ³⁷And Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." ³⁸And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him.

D. The new believers in the house of Cornelius in Peter's ministry

Acts 10:48- ⁴⁸And he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to stay on for a few days.

E. Paul under Ananias' ministry

Acts 9:17-18- ¹⁷So Ananias departed and entered the house, and after laying his hands on him said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road by which you were coming, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸And immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he regained his sight, and he got up and was baptized

F. Jailer and his household in Paul's ministry

Acts 16:30-34- ³⁰and after he brought them out, he said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" ³¹They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." ³²And they spoke the word of the Lord to him together with all who were in his house. ³³And he took them that very hour of the night and washed their wounds, and immediately he was baptized, he and all his household.

G. Note: Scripture indicates that only believers were baptized. Since baptism requires repentance, faith and confession; infant baptism is invalid.

Romans 10:9-10- ⁹that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; ¹⁰for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

V. **OPPOSING VIEW #1: BAPTISM IS NOT AN ESSENTIAL OF THE OF THE FAITH**

- A. Paul said, "Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel." 1 Cor. 1:13-17
- B. Cornelius' household and friends were saved & speaking in tongues prior to water baptism. Acts 10:47
- C. The thief on the cross was never baptized. Luke 23:39-43
- D. Zachaeus, the tax collector received salvation status prior to any baptism. Luke 19:1-9
- E. The adulterous woman breaks the alabaster vial of perfume on Jesus' feet is declared saved. Luke 7:44-50
- F. The publican who prayed 'God be merciful to me, the sinner' and was justified. Luke 18:13
- G. Jesus said, "...that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name..." Luke 24:45-47
- H. The Jerusalem Council letter sent with Apostle Paul did not call for water baptism Acts 15:28
- I. Abraham was declared righteous before circumcision, which is viewed as a type of water baptism. Romans 4:3,10

VI. **OPPOSING VIEW #2: BAPTISM IS AN ESSENTIAL OF THE FAITH**

- A. **Acts 2:38** - Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- B. **Mark 16:16** - "He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.
- C. **John 3:3-8** - ⁵Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. ⁶"That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.
- D. **Matt. 28: 16-20** - "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹" Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."
- E. **1 Peter 3:18-22** - ¹⁸For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit; ¹⁹in which also He went and made proclamation to the spirits now in prison, ²⁰who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons were brought safely through the water. ²¹ Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you--not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience--through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,
- F. **Acts 22:16** - Ananias to Paul 'Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.'
- G. **Titus 3:5** - ⁵He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,

S A L V A T I O N

INITIAL JUSTIFICATION

Repent and believe the gospel
 Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God
 You have been born-again through...the word of God
 Whoever believes in Him will have eternal life
 His faith is credited as righteousness
 Confess with your mouth and believe in your heart

-Mk. 1:15
 -1 John 5
 -1 Pet.1
 -John 3:15
 -Rom. 4
 -Rom 10

No Water Baptism

P A S T

SANCTIFICATION

Pursue peace & sanctification without which no will see the Lord Heb. 12:14
 God's grace is always sufficient -2 Cor. 12:9 / Titus 2:10-11 / 1 Cor. 10:13
 Jesus: the source of eternal life to those who obey Him -Heb 5 / John 3:36
 If we confess our sins, He is faithful to forgive... -1 John 1
 Abide in Christ or be cast into the fire -John 15
 Bear fruit in keeping with repentance -Matt. 3
 He who has my commands and keeps them ...loves Me -John 14
 What does the Lord require? Do justly, love mercy, walk humbly -Micah 6
 By doing good seek for glory, honor and eternal life -Rom. 2:7
 Those who do His commands...have the right to the tree of life -Rev. 22:14
 Water Baptism

P R E S E N T

GLORIFICATION

Sufferings not worthy to be compared
 to glory that is to be revealed -Rom. 8
 The body is ... raised in glory -1 Cor.15
 You will be revealed with Him in glory
 -Colo. 3:4
 When He appears, we shall be like Him
 -1 Jo. 2
 Few there be who find it -Mt. 7

F U T U R E

FIVE BIBLE PICTURES OF BAPTISM

1. Water baptism is a public declaration that we are believers who have chosen to follow Christ and identify with God's covenant people. Baptism separates us spiritually and physically from false deities.
2. Baptism is an earthly dramatization of a divine truth; a glorious funeral service if you will. Water baptism is a symbolic yet real spiritual experience. In baptism we identify with Jesus Christ in His death, burial and resurrection

Galatians 2:20 ²⁰"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

Romans 6:3, 4, 5, 11 ³Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? ⁴Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, ¹¹Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Col. 2:12 ¹²having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

3. OT physical circumcision. Circumcision was a required physical mark identifying of all Jewish men.

Gen.17:1-14 ¹⁰"This is My covenant, which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: every male among you shall be circumcised. ¹¹"And you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskin, and it shall be the sign of the covenant between Me and you. ¹²"And every male among you who is eight days old shall be circumcised throughout your generations, a servant who is born in the house or who is bought with money from any foreigner, who is not of your descendants. ¹³"A servant who is born in your house or who is bought with your money shall surely be circumcised; thus shall My covenant be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant. ¹⁴"But an uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin, that person shall be cut off from his people; he has broken My covenant."

N.T. Water baptism is a required spiritual mark identifying all New Testament believers, male and female. Baptism is a circumcision made without hands.

Col. 2:11-12 ¹¹and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ; ¹²having been buried with Him in baptism,...

4. Noah's flood 1 Peter 3:18 - *For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit ; 19 in which also He went and made proclamation to the spirits now in prison, 20 who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water. 21 Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you- not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience -through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,...*
5. Moses and the crossing of the Red Sea. Exodus 14:21-31 ²⁶Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may come back over the Egyptians, over their chariots and their horsemen." ²⁷So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its normal state at daybreak, while the Egyptians were fleeing right into it; then the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. ²⁸The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen, even Pharaoh's entire army that had gone into the sea after them; not even one of them remained. ²⁹But the sons of Israel walked on dry land through the midst of the sea, and the waters were like a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. ³⁰Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore

VIII. NAME INTO WHICH THE BELIEVER IS BAPTIZED

A. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; the name of the eternal Godhead.

Matt. 28:19- ¹⁹"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

- Name of Father: Lord.

Exodus 3:15; God, furthermore, said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you ' This is My name forever, and this is My memorial-name to all generations.

Exodus 15:3 "The LORD is a warrior; The LORD is His name.

Isa. 42:8 "I am the LORD, that is My name; I will not give My glory to another,

- Name of Son: Jesus.

Luke 1:31- "... you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus."

John 17:6, 11, 12- ⁶" I have manifested Your name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world; they were Yours and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word.

¹¹"I am no longer in the world; and yet they themselves are in the world, and I come to You Holy Father, keep them in Your name, the name which You have given Me, that they may be one even as We are. ¹²"While I was with them, I was keeping them in Your name which You have given Me; and I guarded them and not one of them perished but the son of perdition, so that the Scripture would be fulfilled.

- Name of Holy Spirit: Christ (Messiah or Anointed One)

Matt. 3:16 ¹⁶After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him,

1 John 2:20,27 ²⁰But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know.

²⁷As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.

Thus the triune name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit is interpreted in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, which is the name used in water baptism in the book of Acts.

Acts 2:38 Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

8:12, 16 But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike. ¹⁶For He had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

10:48 And he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

19:5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

B. There is a Pentecostal cult group that denies that there are three persons in the God-Head. This is false teaching called "Oneness" or the "United Pentecostal."

Action List!

1. Ask yourself, have I been baptized in accordance with the Bible?
2. If the answer is yes, how alive is my faith in regard to what took place at my baptism? Am I encouraging others to be baptized?
3. If the answer is no to question #1, what has kept me from doing what the Lord, the apostles and the scripture command me?
4. If the answer is no to question #1, how soon can I be water baptized? Glad you asked!