

What Is Baptism?



What Is Baptism?

Introduction

When it comes to Baptism the first thing that we need to understand is that it is not a work it is not something you “do”. Believing and repenting are things we do baptism on the other hand is something that we allow to be done to us. On the day of Pentecost the Jews asked the Apostles “what must we do?” This was concerning their salvation. Closely look at Peter's response below

Acts 2:37-38 Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" And Peter said to them, "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.

Peter tells them they must repent (which is something that they “do”), then he states “and **be baptized**” the words in bold suggest heavily that baptism is something you allow to be done to you. The idea that baptism is work, is one of the most debated subjects among Christians.

Another misunderstanding about baptism is that sprinkling water on the head, dipping a finger and marking a cross on the forehead count as baptism. The Greek word for baptism is, “*baptisma*” it means *consenting of the processes of immersion, submersion, and emergence.*” By the Greek definition of the word baptism is the going into the water, then being completely under the water, and finally coming out of the water.

What Is Baptism?

What it represents

Romans 6:3-4 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried with Him therefore by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might have newness of life.

When we hold our breath to go under the water it represents our death with Christ, when we go under the water it represents our burial with Christ & when we come up out of the water it represents our resurrection with Christ. The newness of life is that we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit

What it has to do with salvation

1Peter 3:21 Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

“Save” = Greek sozo” (sode'-zo) deliver, protect, make whole, heal, preserve

What Is Baptism?

“Appeal” = Greek “eperotema” (ep-er-o'-tay-ma) to ask for, desire, inquire, and seek.

A bad conscience is the starting base of all wrong doing. We always have to think of some thing before we actually do it. There is an order of how sin manifest itself, it starts with a thought, then we dwell on that thought and it moves to our heart, and finally manifests into the physical. But there is something that can preserve and protect our conscience. The first step is to know with all certainty that when we are baptized we must believe that Jesus can and will do all that sozo (see above) defines. The next step is knowing and accepting what the baptismal water represents.

What has the ability to clean, and preserve our conscience

Hebrews 9:13-14 For the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh , how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God'++-

Hebrews 10:22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our body washed with pure water.

What Is Baptism?

It is only the blood of Jesus that can deal with our evil conscience. Baptism is representative of our initial contact with the blood of Christ whereas communion is representative of our continued contact with the blood of Christ. When we are immersed into the water we are washed thoroughly by the Blood of Christ.

Washed, Justified, and Sanctified

1Cor 6:9-11 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the spirit of our God

When we are baptized our mind and body are washed thoroughly by the Blood of Jesus. We no longer have to be who we once were or do the things we used to do. Part of the gift of the Holy Spirit is to help us stop sin as soon as the beginning spark of it appears in our conscience all we have to do is hand it over to Him, it's that easy. When we are baptized we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, and one of the many things he does is guards our minds from the birth of sin, and all we have to do is submit.

As a final note to the reader I feel that it is important to mention that all Scripture mentioned is from the ESV translation of the Bible (unless otherwise noted), and all Hebrew and Greek words and definitions are from "The New Strong's Expanded Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible" (Thomas Nelson, ISBN 978-1-4185-4237-5)

What Is Baptism?