

Immersed In Christ

Matthew 28:19–20 (ESV) - “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

The church is responsible to...

- (1) Teach God’s word
- (2) Make disciples and
- (3) Baptize disciples everywhere (“all nations”) until “the very end of the age.”

I. What Is Baptism?

1. Baptism Is An Outward Testimony

“I confess faith in Jesus Christ and repent of my sin; Jesus has cleansed me from my sin and delivered me from its domination and I now have a new life set apart for Christ and the Gospel.”

If there is no repentance in the heart when you are baptized, you just come up the same old sinner... just a wet one!

2. Baptism Is An Act of Obedience

The Bible shows in many places that the order of events is...

- (1) A person believes in the Lord Jesus and then
- (2) He is baptized.

Acts 2:41 (ESV) - "Those who accepted [Peter's] message were baptized."

Baptism is a visible declaration and obedience to the gospel of Jesus Christ!

Why Immersion?

The word "baptize" comes from the Greek word "baptizo" and means, "to submerge and soak".

Like a cookie dipped in milk!

The action of being immersed in the water pictures dying and being buried with Christ as well as Jesus resurrection and so immersion is the only method of baptism, which illustrates being buried with Christ and being raised with Him.

Baptism to us represents a whole new start cleansed from the corruption of sin!

It's the picture of the death, burial and resurrection of a person into new life!

By the way... 8 is the Biblical number of new beginnings.

There were 8 people on the ark.

Methuselah was an 8th generation man.

When Methuselah died, the flood came!

1 Peter 3:18-22 (ESV)

18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit,

19 in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison,

20 because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water.

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,

22 who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

Romans 6:3-4 (ESV)

3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

1. Jesus – Savior of the world – Only person who could do this!

2. The Universal Church - Or global church – All people who have come to repentance, confessed with their mouth and believed in their heart that Jesus Christ is Lord across the world.

3. The Local Church – A local group with a Pastor (Under-Shepherd) consisting of people who have come to repentance, confessed with their mouth and believed in their heart that Jesus Christ is Lord.

II. Who Should Be Baptized?

Mt. 28:18-20 (ESV)

18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

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

20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

1 Corinthians 12:13 (ESV) - For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

Acts 8:35-36 (ESV)

35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus.

36 And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?"

Those who get baptized demonstrate "Putting on Christ".

Galatians 3:27 (ESV) - For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

1. The Gospel - Baptism shows personal identification with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus and invites others to do the same!

Col. 2:12 (ESV) - having been buried with him in baptism, in which YOU WERE ALSO RAISED WITH HIM THROUGH FAITH in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.

2. Obedience - Remember, both Jesus and his apostles gave the command for disciples to be baptized as an expression of that discipleship.

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

Acts 2:38 (ESV) - 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.

III. Do You Have To Be Baptized To Be Saved?

Salvation is for the lost, baptism is for the found to help declare the Gospel to the lost!

Two Biblical illustrations...

The jailer who was asked what was required of him to be saved, Paul did not mention baptism, but simply said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus."

The thief who died on the cross next to Jesus was promised by Jesus that "today you will be with me in Paradise," though he had not been baptized.

Married people are married regardless of whether they wear their wedding ring, which is the outward symbol of their inward covenant relationship.

Baptism certainly should not be taken lightly!