

# The Biblical Basis for Water Baptism

Text: Various

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“We believe that Christian baptism is to be exclusively by the **immersion** of a believer, which is the only acceptable mode of Scriptural baptism. Through baptism the believer identifies with Christ in his death, burial, and resurrection and demonstrates his desire to be dead to sin and to walk in newness of life. Baptism shows forth in a solemn and beautiful way our faith in the crucified, buried and risen Savior and pictures our placement into the body of Christ which took place at the moment of salvation by the baptism with the Holy Spirit. Baptism by immersion is a prerequisite for church membership.” – LFBC Doctrinal Statement

Baptism is a \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ vow before a holy God demonstrating that a person is completely committed in faith and obedience to the Lord.

The Lord Jesus instituted two divine \_\_\_\_\_ to be practiced by the Church:

\* \_\_\_\_\_ *in water*-since it represents a picture of our salvation, we are only to be baptized once, some time after we are saved.

\**The Lord's* \_\_\_\_\_-this represents our fellowship with God, and since fellowship is to be a continual, ongoing relationship, we're urged to repeat it and observe it as we're led to do so.

## I. Who – The Person (\_\_\_\_\_)

Baptism is a **step of** \_\_\_\_\_ **which is done after** someone has repented of their sins and by faith accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

A person always believes or bears \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ in his/her life prior to baptism (Acts 2:38; 8:12-13; 36-38; Eph. 4:5).

## II. What it is– The Meaning (\_\_\_\_\_)

The Greek word is derived from the Hebrew root word meaning "to sink, dip, and plunge," which in turn is derived from the words "sea and ocean."

What do we learn from the Spartan and Egyptian usages of the term? The Spartan's immersion was to identify their weapons with their intended purpose, which for them was warfare. A similar situation exists for the Christian. His baptism publicly identifies him with God's purpose for his life, which is to glorify God (1 Corinthians 10:31).

Believer's baptism identifies them with their new extraordinary place in the plan of God: they are sons of God, royal priests, and raised to newness of life.

## III. How – The Mode (\_\_\_\_\_)

**But overwhelmingly the most prominent use of the word refers to the first response of obedience by a new follower of Jesus.**

\_\_\_\_\_ is the best picture of Romans 6:4. Immersion is done in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:18-20), which is representative of the Trinitarian formula.

**Only immersion truly pictures the \_\_\_\_\_ with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection.**

## IV. Why do it – The Message (\_\_\_\_\_)

What is the purpose of baptism? The key word is **IDENTIFICATION**. The person being baptized \_\_\_\_\_ with the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ.

It teaches that a believer has been buried with Christ into death, raised up from the dead, and shown to be walking in newness of life. Let's break these verses down and explain them phrase by phrase:

**A. Identify with Christ's \_\_\_\_\_ – Rom. 6:1-3**

There is a \_\_\_\_\_ of the believer to Christ by faith/repentance at salvation. The believer has gone from the old life to the new; no longer being in Adam, but in Christ (Rom. 6; I Cor. 15:22; Rom. 5:12-21). Christ's righteousness is then credited to the person's account because of Christ's perfect life and work on the cross (Rom. 3:21-26; 5:12-21; II Cor. 5:21; Gal. 3:13).

Romans 6 declares that when we received Christ as our Savior, we died positionally to our sin, dying with Christ. Baptism is our testimony that we **accept** and **acknowledge** that fact as a living reality in our lives. **In baptism, we're declaring that our death to sin terminated our relationship to our old life in Adam. The world with its pomp, pride, popularity, pleasure, prestige, and priorities no longer appeals to me.**

Baptism is more than a **picture**, it's a \_\_\_\_\_ on our part that we're dead to all that opposes Christ and alive to all that's for Him.

**B. Identify with Christ's \_\_\_\_\_ – Rom. 6:4**

“Burial \_\_\_\_\_ the reality of death. It would be senseless to be buried beneath the waters of baptism momentarily if a person was unwilling to be declared 100% dead, thus certifying one's complete death to the old life, the old ways, the old habits. What striking imagery this is!!” (Small 3)

**C. Identify with Christ's \_\_\_\_\_ – Rom. 6:4**

The believer is baptized to show that there is a desire to \_\_\_\_\_ in a new life. You have been changed! The baptized believer desires to live in the power of the glorified life. When Christ rose from the dead conquering sin, death and the power of the grave, He was living in a resurrected body. You are attesting to live the same way – a life worthy of the One to whom you belong.

Therefore, it is of no value to baptize a person who is not exhibiting that new life!! **Baptism does not reveal your intention to begin living such a life; rather, it pictures you as \_\_\_\_\_ actively engaged in it.**

“The Christian has died to his old life of sin and been resurrected to new, eternal life of Christ. This vivid symbolizing of death and resurrection is lost when sprinkling or pouring is substituted for immersion” (Finn 3).

## CONCLUSION

**So why should you be baptized?**

- **To show \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_ to Christ.**
- **To show that you are \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ of life**
- **To show your \_\_\_\_\_ to the local \_\_\_\_\_**

Being baptized is a demonstration of the fact that Christ's death was **your** death; Christ's burial was **your** burial; and Christ's resurrection was **your** resurrection, and from that moment on you are forever identifying with the fact that Jesus Christ is **your** Lord, and that Christ's Lordship will reign supreme the remainder of **your** life. **THEREFORE, BAPTISM ISN'T SOMETHING TO BE ENTERED INTO LIGHTLY OR RASHLY.**