



Baptism Orientation

New Life Fellowship

Name: _____

Date: _____



When people consider the topic of Baptism, two categories of questions are often asked. The first is a very basic one: "What is the spiritual significance of baptism?" The second has to do with traditions from the past, specifically, pre-conversion baptism. The issue in that case is, "Why be baptized as an adult believer when I was baptized as a baby?"

Why Baptize?

A. Baptism is a c_____ by the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

B. Baptism was p_____ by the early church.

In the book of Acts, believers expressed p_____ through the act of baptism, their inward d_____ and intent to follow the Lord Jesus Christ.

Acts 2:38 – "And Peter said to them, "R_____, and let each of you be b_____ in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

In Acts, it is evident that the act of baptism f_____ an individual's decision to trust Christ for salvation. Baptism cannot give a person anything, spiritually speaking. It can however s_____ that something has already happened.

Acts 2:41 – "So then, those who had r_____ his word were baptized..."

Who Should Be Baptized?

Individuals who have t_____ the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal savior should be baptized.

The apostles were commanded to "make disciples of all nations, baptizing them..." One must have the heart to be a f_____ of Christ.

You should be baptized if you:

- have not been baptized since becoming a Christian
- never clearly understood the meaning of baptism, even though you may have been baptized previously
- desire to recommit your life to Jesus Christ

What does Baptism Mean?

I. What is Baptism? The word baptism comes from the Greek word “*baptizo*” which means “to plunge, dip, or to immerse.” This word then helps us see what baptism represents spiritually.

Read Acts 8:12, 36-38 and Acts 16:14-15. When someone responded to the gospel, what was their response that visibly demonstrated what God had done in their lives?

Acts 8:12, 36-38 _____

Acts 16:14-15 _____

Baptism then, is the o_____ s_____ of the i_____ r_____ of God's saving grace in one's life.

II. What does Baptism symbolize? Read Romans 6:4-5, Colossians 2:12, I Cor. 15:3-4.

Because plunging or immersion best fits the reality of what baptism symbolizes, this was the mode of baptism practiced in the NT.

III. Look at Romans 6:3-4 again, and complete the following. *Baptism is a p_____ declaration of the believer's identification with Christ in His:*

D_____ (*placed into the water*) (vs. 3) - “Baptized into His death...”

B_____ (*submerged in the water*) (vs. 4) - “Buried with Him through baptism into death...”

R_____ (*brought up out of the water*) (vs. 5) - “...as Christ was raised from the dead...so we too might walk in newness of life.”

Baptism is a testimony to a new life. It is:

- A new direction and purpose for living
- Complete trust in God to direct your life
- Courage and excitement to share Jesus with others
- Controlled and directed by the Spirit of God.

IV. Briefly Sharing Your Story

Prepare a brief written statement of your own conversion experience. In the statement mention your name, who/what you were before you met Jesus Christ, how you came to know Him, and how Jesus changed you as a result of meeting him.

For an example of a brief statement, see below:

My name is _____, I didn't grow up in a Christian family, and in fact I didn't know anything about God growing up. Most of my adult years were wasted. I used to be involved in reckless activity (drugs, alcohol, etc.); my life was heading in a downward spiral and I was dying on the inside. A friend invited me to church one day and the preacher said that my past would be forgiven if I simply trusted in Jesus Christ as my savior.

Well, that day was ___ months/years ago and today I stand before you one who has been renewed and committed to following Jesus Christ.

(This will be read / recited at the baptism ceremony.)

Items to bring with you:

- Shorts
- Tee-shirt/ tank top (*ladies, tee-shirts only please*)
- Shoes to wear in water (flip-flops, etc.)
- Beach towel
- Change of clothes

Do not wear:

- Tight clothing
- Bathing suits (men and ladies)
- Any head coverings
- Loose items that can fall in the water