

WHAT MAKES US A FAMILY? OUR SYMBOLS

PART #1

THE MEANING AND IMPORTANCE OF BAPTISM

I. WHAT DOES THE BIBLE REALLY SAY ABOUT BAPTISM?

Luke 3:1-16

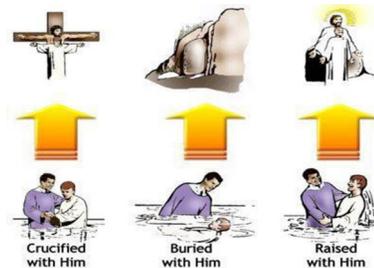
John 1:19-34

a. What takes away sin? Does baptism?

b. Why did John baptize people in water?

1 Peter 3:18-21

Baptism is an antitype - shadow of my death and resurrection in Christ, and of my new life in Christ.



II. WHAT BAPTISM ILLUSTRATES

1. Christ's _____ and _____.

"Christ died for our sins...He was buried...and He rose again." --1 Corinthians 15:3-4

*"For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ."
--Colossians 2:12*

2. My _____ and _____ as a Christian.

*"If any man be in Christ, he is a new creation, old things are passed away, behold all things have become new."
--2 Corinthians 5:17*

Baptism doesn't make you a believer - it shows that you already believe. Baptism does not "save" you, only your faith in Christ does that. (see Ephesians 2:8-9)

III. WHY BE BAPTIZED?

1. To _____ ourselves with Christ.

2. Because Christ _____ us to be.

"Jesus said, Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all the things I have commanded you;..." --Matthew 28:19,20

3. Because it was the _____ of the early church.
Examples: Acts 2:41; 8:12; 8:37-38; 18:8

Baptism is an outward symbol of an inward commitment.

IV. WHY BE BAPTIZED BY IMMERSION?

1. Because _____ was baptized that way.
"As soon as Jesus was baptized, He came up out of the water." --Matthew 3:16
2. Every baptism in the _____ was by immersion.

Example - *"...then both Philip and the man went down into the water and Philip baptized him. And when they came up out of the water...."*
 --Acts 8:38-39

3. The word "baptize" means to _____.

The Greek term baptize means "to immerse or dip under water."

4. It best symbolizes a _____ and _____.

IV. WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

Every person who has trusted in Christ as Savior.

"Then those who gladly received his word were baptized..." --Acts 2:42

"But when they believed Philip as he preached...both men and women were baptized." --Acts 8:12

"Then Simon himself believed and was baptized..." --Acts 8:13

Other examples: Acts 8:35-38; 9:17-18; 16:30-33

The precedent of Scripture is that it was only those who first believed for themselves who were baptized.

IV. WHAT ABOUT THE BAPTISM OF CHILDREN?

Some churches practice a "baptism of confirmation." This ceremony is intended to be a covenant between the parents and God on the behalf of the child. The parents promise to raise their child in the faith until the child is old enough to make his own personal confession of Christ. This custom began about 300 years after the Bible was completed. This, however, is different from the baptism talked about in the Bible which was only for those old enough to believe. The purpose is to publicly confess your personal commitment to Christ.

Nowhere in the Bible do we find an example of infant baptism.

"If some intelligent being from Mars should come to visit our earth and we should hand him our Bible with the request to tell us what he found, he'd learn of general doctrine and some of the practices of the Christian religion without any other aid. He would find the Lord's Supper, the organization of the church, with Elders and Deacons, and adult baptism, but it is safe to say he would never get into his head that little children should be baptized. He would not find infant baptism in the Bible because it is not there and cannot be gotten out of the Bible." (Taken from p.8 of "Why We Baptize Infants" by Alvertus Peters, WM.B. Eerdman Publishing Co.)

At Union Valley Bible Church, we wait until our children are old enough to believe and understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptize them.

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WHAT IS WATER BAPTISM?

It is an outward symbol of the baptism that saves
 The baptism of the Holy Spirit

"For by one Spirit were we all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free - and have all been made to drink into one Spirit." ~1 Corinthians 12:13