

## I. WHAT IS WATER BAPTISM?

- A. Water baptism is an act of obedience (often the first act of obedience) for a follower (disciple) of Jesus Christ.

*Matt 28:19-20 (NKJV) "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.*

- B. The English word "baptize" is *baptizo* in the original Greek. Main definitions: submerge, immerse. The Greeks used this word when drawing water by dipping a container into another one. It is also used of sunken vessels submerged in water.
- C. When we speak of baptism, we usually think of water baptism. But that is only one of several ways that "baptism" is used in the Bible. Baptism of repentance (Mark 1:4), baptism of suffering (Luke 12:50), water baptism (Rom. 6:4), baptism with the Holy Spirit (Mark 1:7-8; Acts 1:8), and the baptism into one body (1 Cor. 12:13).

## II. WHY IS BAPTISM IMPORTANT?

- A. The beginning of the true Christian life is illustrated in water baptism. Baptism is an act of identification with Christ.

*Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? <sup>4</sup> Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. <sup>5</sup> For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, <sup>6</sup> knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin (Rom 6:3-6).*

- B. We have been crucified with Christ. The old man has been crucified with Christ. When I tried to live life in my own power, own way, my own righteousness. Water baptism is a proclamation that I no longer live. We immerse people completely because it is the most satisfying way to show our identification with Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection.

- C. Baptism is a picture of the assurance of forgiveness that is available in Jesus Christ.

*But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed (Isa. 53:5).*

*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).*

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new (2 Cor. 5:17)*

- D. Baptism shows that we will experience the power of Christ' resurrection in our lives. Water baptism signifies the opening of our hearts to the power of God that is available to us to live our lives in Christ today. It also speaks of a future resurrection. We will be resurrected when Jesus returns (1 Cor. 15)
- E. Baptism is an outward sign of God's work in the heart of a person. Baptism is like a wedding ring is to a marriage. The ring symbolizes the marriage, but is not the marriage relationship. It is not the baptism that saves us, and there is nothing magical about the water, but because all followers of Christ desire to obey Him, it is important to be baptized. It is something that is very precious to believers and there is great blessing in obeying God. It is significant. It's not just a good illustration or an optional ritual.
- And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. <sup>16</sup> "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned (Mark 16:15-16).***
- F. Baptism is a way of making a public declaration and identifying with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection, Just as Jesus experienced death, burial, and resurrection, I am being identified with Christ.
- G. We can experience God's pleasure over us as He had over His own Son (Matt. 3:13-17)

## **WATER BAPTISM F.A.Q.**

### **WHY DO PEOPLE GET BAPTIZED?**

People get baptized because they have received Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. They are saying: "We want everyone to know that we follow Jesus now."

Jesus told His disciples to baptize other believers<sup>1</sup>. Baptism is an act of obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ In fact, Jesus Himself was baptized by John to set an example for us to follow<sup>2</sup>.

### **WHAT DOES BAPTISM MEAN?**

Baptism is a picture of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection<sup>3</sup>. It is an outward picture of a person's inward change. "A picture is worth a thousand words."

The word "baptism" means to dip, emerge, or submerge<sup>4</sup>, so we immerse the entire person under water. We believe that immersion is the most satisfying way to show our identification with Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection.

The believer is saying that they are leaving behind the old way of life<sup>5</sup>, and will follow Jesus in this life and through life eternal in heaven.

### **DO I NEED TO BE BAPTIZED TO RECEIVE ETERNAL LIFE?**

Baptism is a *symbol* of salvation-*not a requirement* for eternal life. No one could ever do anything good enough to earn salvation<sup>6</sup>, but we receive it as a free gift from God. We receive it by believing (having "faith") in Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Baptism is like a wedding ring is to a marriage. The ring symbolizes the marriage, but is not the marriage relationship. It is not the baptism that saves us, and there is nothing magical about the water, but because all followers of Christ desire to obey Him, it is important to be baptized. It is something that is very precious to believers and there is great blessing in obeying God.

<sup>1</sup> Matthew 28:19      <sup>2</sup> Matthew 3:13-17      <sup>3</sup> Romans 6:3-5

<sup>4</sup> Strong, J. (1996). *Enhanced Strong's Lexicon*.

<sup>5</sup> Romans 6:6-7      <sup>6</sup> Ephesians 2:8-9