

WATER BAPTISM

Acts 2:38 (NIV) Peter replied, "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.

Every person who accepts the Lord Jesus Christ into their heart as their personal saviour after repenting of their sins should be baptised in water.

a. Consider the following scripture: Matthew 28:18-20


Who is giving the command? _____

Who is expected to be baptised? _____

b. Our key verse of Acts 2:38 is Peter living out the commission of Jesus and clearly telling "every one of you" to be baptised.


c. The example of the early Church disciples in the book of Acts conveys an expectation that it was a "norm" in the new community. (cf: Acts 4:41; 8:12; 8:38; 9:18; 10:47-48; 16:15; 16:33; 18:8).

 Can I be considered "saved" and not be baptised in water?

 Scriptures such as those listed above are usually associated with repentance and the decision to follow Jesus. Salvation from sin and entrance to the kingdom of God are clearly spoken of in scripture as a result of faith and the work of Christ on the cross (Eph 2:8; Romans 10:9-10, etc.)

Look up Luke 23:43 -, "how does it relate to this question?" _____

 What happens if I chose not to be baptised?

 If the above noted scriptures indicate that being baptised is the will of God for *every* believer then it is more appropriate to ask, "what happens when a believer is not obedient to God's will for their lives?" Write a brief summary of what each of these verses say about living *obediently*..

Luke 11:28 _____

John 14:15 _____

Acts 5:32 _____

1 John 3:21-22 _____

James 4:17 _____

Water Baptism is an action whereby one believer (a pastor for example) completely submerges another believer into a body of water.

- a. The word “baptism” means “to dip” or “to immerse”. Comes from the root word “bapto” (greek) meaning “to cover wholly with a fluid.”
- b. The picture presented of John the baptist was that he took people down into the Jordan river (Mat. 3:1-17). The disciples of Jesus followed this same practice(John 4:1-2)
- c. The Ethiopian Official expected that he was to go down into the water and be baptised by Philip (Acts 8:38).

Q. Is sprinkling or pouring acceptable means of baptism?

A. Many traditions surrounding the practice of baptism have sprung up throughout the centuries and many of them are not rooted in the New Testament. The scriptures are often sketchy on the issue of forms the church should follow and therefore it is difficult to declare other means of baptism as *always* wrong, however we prefer to stay close to the New Testament examples that we do see.

A believer being baptised is expressing publicly their repentance and their belief in the Lord Jesus Christ and their intention to follow him for the rest of their life.

- a. Romans 6 teaches baptism as an identification with Christ. Read Rom. 6:1-14 and list at least three things in Christ’s life that baptism by immersion symbolically connects the believer to.

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

- b. Baptism follows repentance and repentance is turning 180° from the direction you were going and moving in the opposite direction.

Q. What if I was baptised before but I don’t know if I was saved when I did?

A. We do not believe in baptising people who are either too young or too unsure of their commitment for this very reason. If you were properly baptised as a confession of your faith but then stopped living in obedience to God and are now returned to a life of obedience then there is no need for being baptised again. However, if you have no recollection of whether you were even committed to serving God at the time you were baptised then it is appropriate to be baptised again. If you have any doubts, then please consult a Christian leader for further discussion.

Q. What if I was baptised as an infant?

A. In the vast majority of cases we recommend that you be baptised. We feel strongly that this is an act of the parents in dedication of their children and obviously not a true confession of the child’s repentance and desire to serve God. Therefore it is not truly meeting the requirements of biblical water baptism as outlined in this study. The only exceptional case that I have run across is a person who entered their confirmation in the church with a clear experience of salvation and took personal ownership of their infant baptism at that time. Because the form is not as important as the function - we accepted this as a valid baptism.
