



# BAPTISM

The What and the Why

# WHAT IS BAPTISM?

Baptism is one of two ordinances or commands given to the Church (The second is the Lord's Supper). We are commanded to follow Jesus Christ in obedience by being baptized **if** we have entered into a relationship with him. Baptism does not bring salvation, but is a righteous act of obedience according to the commands of Christ that identifies a person as a follower of Christ.

Baptism doesn't save a person. One is saved by grace alone, through faith alone in Christ alone. Baptism is like a wedding ring; it's the outward sign of what the Lord has done inwardly. It is the first step of obedience in identifying yourself as a child of God. A public declaration (a public symbol) of your faith in Jesus Christ.

# EXAMINE YOURSELF:

Check out these scripture references and examine yourself.

- Mark 1:15, Acts 17:30 – Repent & Believe
- Ephesians 2:8–9 – Grace through faith
- 1 Corinthians 15:3–4 – First importance
- 1 Peter 1:23-25 – Born again through the living and abiding word of God.
- Romans 10:17 – Faith comes through hearing the word of Christ.
- Titus 3:3-7 – His own mercy.
- 1 Peter 3:21 – Faith in Christ saves, not baptism
  - Romans 3:23-25 – Justified by grace
  - Romans 5:1, Galatians 2:15-16; 5:1-6 – Justified by faith
  - Ephesians 2:11-25 – All Jesus

# BAPTISM IS...

It is a picture of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection as well as the reminder of the final resurrection.

- Romans 6:1-11 – Union with Christ, a sign of fellowship with Christ, immersed into Christ.
- Colossians 2:8-15 – Raised with Him through faith.
- Acts 22:16 - Christ washes away our sins.
- 1 Corinthians 15:12-58 - There is a resurrection!

It is a picture of being born again, a new creation, and belonging to Jesus Christ.

- Acts 2:36-41 - The Holy Spirit has come.
- 1 Corinthians 6:11 - a symbol of cleansing or purification.
- 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 – A temple of the Holy Spirit, we are to glorify God
- 2 Corinthians 5:17 – A new creation.
- Galatians 2:19-20 – Crucified with Christ
- Galatians 3:26-27 – Put on Christ

# WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

It is a command of Jesus Christ and it identifies us as his child.

- Matthew 28:18-20 – A command to the Church for those who are saved to publicly identify themselves as a child of God. Faith goes public! Preach – If faith – Get baptized!
- It is a public profession of faith in Christ. A mark that we belong to God. A mark that you belong to the Church of God.
- Acts 8:36-37 – Understood by the early church

# WHY BAPTISM BY IMMERSION ?

It is the only method used in the Bible.

- Matthew 3:6; 3:13-17 – In a river, went up from the water
- Mark 1:9-11 – Came up out of the water
- John 1:29-34 – Came baptizing with water
- John 3:23 – Water was plentiful
- Acts 8:26–39 – Went down into the water
- Galatians 3:26-27 – Put on Christ

*baptizō*

- The word “baptize” means “to dip, to immerse or submerge.”
- This is where Baptist gets their name.

# OBEDIENCE

Obey God and get baptized if you have been born again.

- Has God given you the faith to believe?
- Is your faith in Christ?
- Have you turned from your sin and trusted in Christ alone for your salvation?
- Do you have a desire to live for the Lord all of your life?
- Do you hate sin?
- Do you love the Word of God?
- John 8:31-32 - If you abide
- 1 John 2:3 - If you keep his commands
- Luke 6:43-45 – You will be known by your fruits. Do you have good fruit?
- Luke 9:23-27 – The Cost of following Jesus is your life. Fan's of Jesus will not enter his kingdom.

# EXAMINE YOURSELF:

- 1 John 1:6-7 Do you walk in the light?
- 1 John 1:8-10 Do you confess your sins?
- 1 John 2:3-5 Do you keep God's commands?
- 1 John 2:9-11 Do you love your brother?
- 1 John 2:15-17 Do you love the world?
- 1 John 2:18-19 Do you continue with the bride?
- 1 John 2:22-23 Do you deny that Jesus is the Christ?
- 1 John 2:28-3:3 Do you practice righteousness?
- 1 John 3:4-3:7 Do you make a practice of sinning?
- 1 John 4:5-6 Do you listen to the world or to the words of God?
- 1 John 5:9-12 Do you still believe in Jesus Christ?

# CONTINUE TO FOLLOW:

Being baptized is not the end, but the beginning of obedience. Following Jesus Christ everyday means a relationship with Jesus Christ every day.

- Hebrews 9:27-28 – He will return!
- Have the discipline of reading, studying, praying, applying, and memorizing God's word.

# WHAT NOW?

Spend time in prayer and examine yourself.

If you are confident of your salvation obey the Lord and get baptized.

If you know that you are not saved...you are commanded by Christ to repent and believe. Read God's word and call on the Lord for salvation.

**Questions:**

**Contact [elders@foundationeules.com](mailto:elders@foundationeules.com)**

