

The Significance of Baptism

Matthew 28:16-20

Who do we baptize?

We baptize people who give credible evidence of repentance from sin and faith in Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

In the entire Bible, the only people who are ever baptized are people who give credible evidence of repentance and faith.

Acts 8:12 But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

Acts 2:38 Repent and be baptized every one of you.

Mt. 28 Disciples (baptizing *them*)

Why is it so important that we only baptize people who are born again and have committed their lives fully to Christ?

What about children?

How do we baptize?

By immersion in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

By immersion (Bapto, Baptizo)

Mark 1:5 And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being **baptized by him in the river Jordan**, confessing their sins.

Mark 1:9-11 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 And **when he came up out of the water**, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. 11 And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

Acts 8:36-38 And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" 38 And he commanded the chariot to stop, **and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him.**

In the name...

Why is the baptismal formula so important? Why the pronouncement of the blessing of the triune God over us when we're immersed.

Each person within the Trinity plays a vital role in our worship.

All that the Father has planned for you, and all that the Son has done for you, is of no benefit until the Holy Spirit comes to you personally and applies it all to you.

Why do we baptize?

The answer is very simple. We baptize because of the gospel. Baptism is a very fitting and very public statement of the gospel.

We do not baptize people in order for them to be saved. Baptism is symbolic in its nature. It does not cause or procure your salvation.

We do not baptize people in order to wash away their sins. Baptism is symbolic of having our sins washed away. But hear me. When a person is born again and comes to faith in Christ all his sins are washed away.

Titus 3:4-7 But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

How is baptism such a fitting statement of the gospel?

Romans 6:3-5 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

Baptism publicly portrays the hidden reality our union with Christ – baptized into Jesus.

Conclusion

Jess, Trent, Sarah – today you have publicly told the world that you have laid down your sin at the foot of the cross

For some of you it's been many years since your baptism. It's a day to look back on God's grace in your life. And you can be very thankful that just like Jesus saved you, he's still in the business of saving sinners.

If you're here and you're not yet a follower of Jesus, then my prayer is that God would open your eyes to see that true life, meaningful life begins the moment you die to yourself and begin living in Christ. Every other road, no matter how appealing it looks, if it's not Christ it leads to destruction. My prayer is that you would right here, right now turn away from your sin and turn to Christ. My prayer is that in the very near future, we'll be baptizing you as you publicly state your faith in Christ.