



## BAPTISM

### Definition

Baptism is an initial public act of entrance for a believer that demonstrates the invisible reality of being joined with Christ in His death and resurrection (Rom. 6:3-4), and being joined with His body – the church (1 Cor. 12:13).

### A Proper Perspective of Baptism

Baptism is a symbolic picture of the believer dying to their old self and becoming a new creature in Christ (Rom. 6:3-4). This is something that has already taken place internally in the believer, and water immersion beautifully symbolizes this change in the believer's life (cf. Mk. 1:9-10; Acts 8:38-39). It is a visible demonstration of an invisible inward reality.

### Who Should be Baptized?

Only those who repent (turn from) and believe (faith in, allegiance to) are to be baptized (cf. Acts 2:41; 8:35-38; 18:8; 19:4-5). There is no such thing as an unbaptized Christian in the New Testament.

Babies and Unsaved Children are not to be Baptized: The offer to children to be disciples of Jesus and be baptized has the same condition as it does for adults: repent and believe. To do otherwise is to go contrary to the Bible's teaching and to possibly give a false sense of security to those baptized as infants.

### Why Should One be Baptized?

Baptism is commanded by Jesus Christ Himself (cf. Matt. 28:19).

### What Does Baptism Represent?

Baptism is a public identification with Jesus Christ:

- o It is a public act of declaration that this baptized individual has come by faith to Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Baptism makes an invisible reality (one's immersion into Christ) visible through immersion in water (baptism) (Rom. 6:3-4).

Baptism is a public identification with the people of God:

- o When an individual identifies himself with Jesus Christ, he is also identifying himself with Christ's people. The inclusion of God's people into Christ is essential to our understanding of baptism (1 Cor. 12:13; Eph. 4:4-12).

### Is Water Baptism a Requirement for Salvation?

Baptism is not a condition for salvation; it is the initial act of obedience for those saved.

Faith in Christ alone for salvation is what saves a person (Eph. 2:8-9; 1 Jn. 5:13). A good example of this is the thief on the cross (cf. Lk. 23:42-43). The thief simply believed in Christ. There wasn't time or opportunity for him to be baptized to publicly declare his faith.