

Water Baptism

NLT – Romans 6:1-4, ¹Well then, should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more of his wonderful grace? ²Of course not! Since we have died to sin, how can we continue to live in it? ³Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in **baptism**, we joined him in his death? ⁴For we died and were buried with Christ by **baptism**. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.

To fully understand water baptism, it is important to understand some basic Theology as taught by Paul in the book of Romans.

Condemnation:

Condemned – declared to be in the wrong; judged and found guilty.

In Romans 1:1-3:23, Paul proves that ALL are condemned before God, without Jesus Christ as their Savior! There are three main points he makes in these verses:

- 1) No one will have an excuse for not knowing God.

NLT – Romans 1:20, ²⁰For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no **excuse** for not knowing God.

- 2) All are going to be judged.

NLT – Romans 2:16, ¹⁶And this is the message I proclaim—that the day is coming when God, through Christ Jesus, will **judge** everyone's secret life.

- 3) Paul concludes that EVERYONE sins and is guilty before God and needs a Savior.

NLT – Romans 3:23, ²³For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God glorious standard.

The Good News is that even though we ALL deserve death because we are sinners, Jesus Christ died in our place and took our guilt and judgment upon Himself so we can escape the judgment and wrath of God that we deserve!

Justification:

Justification – declared to be right with God

Although the word justified is used in the KJV, modern translations often use the phrase “made right with God” instead.

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In Romans 3:24 – 5:21, Paul teaches we are Justified by Faith; not by the law, works, or circumcision (baptism).

NLT – Romans 3:22-25, ²²We are **made right (Justified)** with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. ²³For **everyone** has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. ²⁴Yet God, with undeserved kindness, declares that we are righteous. **(Justified)** He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. ²⁵For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God **(Justified)** when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood...

NLT – Ephesians 2:8-9, ⁸God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. ⁹Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

Justification is the result of placing our Faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Paul wrote this later in Romans...

NLT – Romans 10:8-10, ⁸In fact, it says, "The message is very close at hand; it is on your lips and in your heart." And that message is the very message about faith that we preach: ⁹If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, **you will be saved**. ¹⁰For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved.

Getting saved (Justified) is the result of a decision in our minds to believe in Jesus, and a declaration in our speech concerning our Faith in Jesus Christ, His Name, and the atoning saving power of His shed Blood.

What Happens at Justification:

- 1) **Faith** – belief in Jesus as Lord and the saving Blood of Jesus that cleanses us from sin
- 2) **Forgiveness** – the record of our sin is washed clean by the Blood of Jesus
- 3) **New Birth** – when you invite God to come into your life, He places the Holy Spirit within you

One we have been saved (Justified), we are called to continue to grow in our Faith, and the next step is what the Bible calls Sanctification.

Sanctification:

Sanctification – the act of making holy, consecrated, set apart for service.

Although used in the KJV, in modern translations the phrase "make you holy" is commonly used.

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In Romans 6:1 – 8:13 and 12:1 – 15:13, Paul teaches that Sanctification is about surrendering our will to God and seeking His will for our lives.

NLT – Romans 6:1-4, ¹Well then, should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more of his wonderful grace? ²Of course not! Since we have died to sin, how can we continue to live in it? ³Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in **baptism**, we joined him in his death? ⁴For we died and were buried with Christ by **baptism**. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.

Baptism is something we do as an act of obedience after we are saved; not to get saved.

Water baptism is a public declaration of our Faith in Jesus, and that we are choosing to identify with the death and burial of Jesus by burying our old self and rising out of the waters of baptism to walk as a new person through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The focus of Sanctification is twofold:

- 1) To be set apart **from** sin – repentance

Repentance is a change of mind and heart **from** our sinful ways and the world, **to** follow Jesus with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength; overcoming sin through the power of the Holy Spirit.

NLT – Romans 6:5-18, ⁵Since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be raised to life as he was. ⁶We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. ⁷For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin. ⁸And since we died with Christ, we know we will also live with him. ⁹We are sure of this because Christ was raised from the dead, and he will never die again. Death no longer has any power over him. ¹⁰When he died, he died once to break the power of sin. But now that he lives, he lives for the glory of God. ¹¹So you also should consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus. ¹²**Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires.** ¹³Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God. ¹⁴Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God's grace. ¹⁵Well then, since God's grace has set us free from the law, does that mean we can go on sinning? Of course not! ¹⁶Don't you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey? You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living. ¹⁷Thank God! Once you were slaves of sin, but now you

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wholeheartedly obey this teaching we have given you. ¹⁸Now you are free from your slavery to sin, and you have become slaves to righteous living.

NLT – Romans 8:1-2, ¹So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. ²And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death.

2) To be set apart **for** service and ministry – consecration

NLT – Romans 12:1-2, ¹And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. **Let them be a living and holy sacrifice**—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. ²Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. **Then you will learn to know God's will for you**, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

In summary, water baptism is an act of Sanctification (set apart from sin and for service and ministry) that we do because we have been saved.

Water baptism is NOT something we do to GET saved.

Water Baptism – John the Baptist:

Although there were cleansing rituals using water in the Old Testament, water baptism is an action that came to the forefront in the New Testament, where we first see it as something John the Baptist did as recorded in all four of the Gospels.

NLT – Matthew 3:1-2, ¹In those days John the Baptist came to the Judean wilderness and began preaching. His message was, ²“Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.”

In preparing the way for Jesus, John's message was about repentance, and he baptized in water those who had “repented of their sins and turned to God to be forgiven.”

NLT – Matthew 3:5-6, 11, ⁵People from Jerusalem and from all of Judea and all over the Jordan Valley went out to see and hear John. ⁶And when they confessed their sins, he **baptized** them in the Jordan River... ¹¹“I **baptize** with water those who repent of their sins and turn to God. But someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I'm not worthy even to be his slave and carry his sandals. He will **baptize** you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

NLT – Mark 1:4-5, ⁴This messenger was John the Baptist. He was in the wilderness and preached that people should be **baptized** to show that they had repented of their sins and turned to God to be forgiven. ⁵All of Judea, including all the people of Jerusalem, went out

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to see and hear John. And when they confessed their sins, he **baptized** them in the Jordan River.

NLT – Luke 3:3, ³Then John went from place to place on both sides of the Jordan River, preaching that people should be **baptized** to show that they had repented of their sins and turned to God to be forgiven.

John's ministry was to awaken the nation of Israel in preparation of the coming of Jesus, the Messiah, and to call them to repentance; and he baptized in water those who repented, pointing them to God for forgiveness and to the coming Messiah for the baptism of the Holy Spirit and fire.

Water Baptism – Jesus:

Jesus was baptized in water.

NLT – Matthew 3:13-17, ¹³Then Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be **baptized** by John. ¹⁴But John tried to talk him out of it. “I am the one who needs to be **baptized** by you,” he said, “so why are you coming to me?” ¹⁵But Jesus said, “It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires.” So John agreed to **baptize** him. ¹⁶After his **baptism**, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him. ¹⁷And a voice from heaven said, “This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy.”

Jesus was baptized in water as an example of obedience to us.

Jesus was not baptized because He had repented, because He had no sins to turn from and repent of; He was baptized in order to “**carry out all that God requires.**”

Water Baptism –the Apostles:

Water baptism was preached and practiced by the Apostles in the early church as shown through the book of Acts.

This is on the Day of Pentecost after the first outpouring of the Holy Spirit on those that were waiting as commanded by Jesus in the upper room.

NLT – Acts 2:14-21, ¹⁴Then **Peter stepped forward with the eleven other apostles** and shouted to the crowd, “Listen carefully, all of you, fellow Jews and residents of Jerusalem! Make no mistake about this. ¹⁵These people are not drunk, as some of you are assuming. Nine o'clock in the morning is much too early for that. ¹⁶No, what you see was predicted long ago by the prophet Joel: ¹⁷‘In the last days,’ God says, ‘I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams. ¹⁸In those days I will pour out my Spirit even on my

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servants—men and women alike—and they will prophesy. ¹⁹And I will cause wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below—blood and fire and clouds of smoke. ²⁰The sun will become dark, and the moon will turn blood red before that great and glorious day of the LORD arrives. ²¹But everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.’

On the Day of Pentecost after the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, Peter preached about Jesus, salvation, repentance, and water baptism as the other disciples stood with him in agreement.

At the end of Peter’s message, the crowd responded and asked Peter what they should do.

NLT – Acts 2:37-41, ³⁷Peter’s words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” ³⁸Peter replied, “Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹This promise is to you, to your children, and to those far away—all who have been called by the Lord our God.” ⁴⁰Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation!” ⁴¹Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all.

The response to Peter’s message was Faith in Jesus, repentance, and water baptism.

As the Apostles began to travel away from Jerusalem, we see them preaching the Gospel and baptizing converts.

Philip preached in Samaria and many were baptized...

NLT – A Acts 8:4-5, 12, ⁴But the believers who were scattered preached the Good News about Jesus wherever they went. ⁵Philip, for example, went to the city of Samaria and told the people there about the Messiah... ¹²But now the people believed Philip’s message of Good News concerning the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ. As a result, many men and women were baptized.

Paul was baptized after his conversion experience on the road to Damascus...

NLT – Acts 9:17-18, ¹⁷So Ananias went and found Saul. He laid his hands on him and said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road, has sent me so that you might regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” ¹⁸Instantly something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he got up and was baptized.

Peter preaches to the Gentiles in Cornelius’ house at Caesarea and they were baptized...

NLT – Acts 10:1-2, 44-48, ¹In Caesarea there lived a Roman army officer named Cornelius, who was a captain of the Italian Regiment. ²He was a devout, God-fearing man, as was everyone in his household. He gave generously to the poor and prayed regularly to God... ⁴⁴Even as Peter was saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who were listening to the message. ⁴⁵The Jewish believers who came with Peter were amazed that the gift of the

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Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles, too. ⁴⁶For they heard them speaking in other tongues and praising God. Then Peter asked, ⁴⁷“Can anyone object to their being baptized, now that they have received the Holy Spirit just as we did?” ⁴⁸So he gave orders for them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterward Cornelius asked him to stay with them for several days.

Paul preached at Philippi and Lydia and her household were baptized...

NLT – Acts 16:12-15, ¹²From there we reached Philippi, a major city of that district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. And we stayed there several days. ¹³On the Sabbath we went a little way outside the city to a riverbank, where we thought people would be meeting for prayer, and we sat down to speak with some women who had gathered there. ¹⁴One of them was Lydia from Thyatira, a merchant of expensive purple cloth, who worshiped God. As she listened to us, the Lord opened her heart, and she accepted what Paul was saying. ¹⁵She and her household were baptized...

After Paul and Silas were thrown in jail and set free, the Philippian jailer and his household were baptized...

NLT – Acts 16:29-33, ²⁹The jailer called for lights and ran to the dungeon and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰Then he brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” ³¹They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, along with everyone in your household.” ³²And they shared the word of the Lord with him and with all who lived in his household. ³³Even at that hour of the night, the jailer cared for them and washed their wounds. Then he and everyone in his household were immediately baptized.

Paul preached at Corinth and many were baptized...

NLT – Acts 18:1, 7-8, ¹Then Paul left Athens and went to Corinth... ⁷Then he left and went to the home of Titius Justus, a Gentile who worshiped God and lived next door to the synagogue. ⁸Crispus, the leader of the synagogue, and everyone in his household believed in the Lord. Many others in Corinth also heard Paul, became believers, and were baptized.

Paul preached at Ephesus and many were baptized...

NLT – Acts 19:1-6, ¹While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul traveled through the interior regions until he reached Ephesus, on the coast, where he found several believers. ²“Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” he asked them. “No,” they replied, “we haven’t even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” ³“Then what baptism did you experience?” he asked. And they replied, “The baptism of John.” ⁴Paul said, “John’s baptism called for repentance from sin. But John himself told the people to believe in the one who would come later, meaning Jesus.” ⁵As soon as they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶Then when Paul laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in other tongues and prophesied.

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Paul shared his testimony in Jerusalem reflecting back on his conversion and baptism...

NLT – Acts 22:14-16, ¹⁴“Then he told me, ‘The God of our ancestors has chosen you to know his will and to see the Righteous One and hear him speak. ¹⁵For you are to be his witness, telling everyone what you have seen and heard. ¹⁶What are you waiting for? Get up and be baptized. Have your sins washed away by calling on the name of the Lord.’

From these passages we see where Jews, Samaritans (half Jew, half Gentile), and Gentiles were all baptized.

Summary:

In summary, we know that we are saved by Faith in Jesus.

NLT – Galatians 3:26-28, ²⁶For you are all children of God through **faith in Christ Jesus**. ²⁷And all who have been united with Christ in **baptism** have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes. ²⁸There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus.

NLT – Ephesians 2:8-9, ⁸God **saved you by his grace when you believed**. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. ⁹Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

The Holy Spirit is given and the New Birth happens at Faith, not baptism.

Baptism is an outward sign of an inward decision and work.

Baptism was commanded and practiced by both Jesus and the disciples, and therefore should not be considered optional.

A person who decides to get water baptized needs to have placed their Faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior and be Born Again, and committed to living a repented life, turning from sin.

Water Baptism FAQs:

Why does Church 3.0 practice immersion for baptism instead of sprinkling?

Here are some simple answers to this question:

- 1) When a person dies and buried in the natural, they are completely buried (covered) with dirt, not laid on the ground and a little dirt sprinkled over them. Jesus was buried and sealed in a tomb
- 2) The pattern of every baptism in the New Testament was by immersion, not sprinkling.

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- 3) The Greek word interpreted as baptized in Strong's dictionary is G907 βαπτίζω baptizō, which means to immerse, submerge; to make whelmed (i.e. fully wet).

Does Church 3.0 baptize infants?

No. We believe baptism is an act of obedience as a result of Faith a person themselves places in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. It isn't possible for an infant to have faith and make that decision on their own. Instead, Church 3.0 encourages parents to dedicate their infants to God, promising to raise them in Biblical Faith and Fellowship with the Body of Christ so they will make the decision on their own to be baptized when they come of age.

What happens if a person prays and accepts Jesus and Lord and Savior but doesn't get baptized.

The question would be why not, and here are two different responses to that question:

- 1) The first response to is, why didn't they get baptized? If it was because they were sick and unable to, we believe the Lord is understanding and His grace is sufficient.
- 2) The second response is, were they able to but just wouldn't? Only God knows the true answer to this question. However, since water baptism is commanded, the question that needs to be asked is why wouldn't they be willing to make a public proclamation of their Faith at baptism and bury the old person? Refusing to do so at some point becomes disobedience and rebellion.

NLT – Matthew 10:32-33, ³²Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. ³³But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

Questions a Person Should Ask Themselves Before Water Baptism:

Have I prayed a prayer of Faith and Forgiveness, accepting Jesus as my Lord and Savior, and placed my Faith in Jesus alone for salvation?

Am I ready to surrender my will to God's will and plans for my life?

Am I ready to commit to allowing the Holy Spirit to actively work in my life to Sanctify me?

- 1) To be set apart **from** sin – repentance
- 2) To be set apart **for** service and ministry – consecration

Additional Reading – Spiritual Circumcision:

Paul when writing to the Church at Colossae, wrote about water baptism and taught it is spiritual circumcision.

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NLT – Colossians 2:11-15, ¹¹When you came to Christ, you were “circumcised,” but not by a physical procedure. Christ performed a spiritual circumcision—the cutting away of your sinful nature. ¹²For **you were buried with Christ when you were baptized**. And with him you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead. ¹³You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. ¹⁴He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross.

To fully understand this requires a brief study of Circumcision and Blood Covenants in the Old Testament.

God’s Will was revealed to Abram when he was called.

NLT – Genesis 12:1-3, ¹Then the Lord told Abram, "Leave your country, your relatives, and your father's house, and go to the land that I will show you. ²I will cause you to become the father of a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and I will make you a blessing to others. ³I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you. All the families of the earth will be blessed through you.

For Abram to receive God’s Will he had to be obedient to the Call by leaving his Country, Family, and Father’s House.

After Abram demonstrates his obedience by answering the Call, God takes their relationship to the next level by making a Covenant with Abram.

Covenant:

Webster 1828: 1) To come together, a meeting or agreement of minds; 2) To enter into a formal agreement; to bind one’s self by contract.

Hebrew – H1285 beriyyth – cutting, a compact (because made by passing between pieces of flesh).

Greek – G1242 diatheke – a contract (especially a devisory will).

In a blood covenant, the contracting parties would agree on the terms of the covenant. Then they would take an animal, kill it, split the carcass in half down the backbone, and place the divided parts opposite each other on the ground forming a pathway between then pieces. The two would join hands, recite the contents of the covenant, and walk between the divided halves of the slain animal. The blood covenant meant they were bound until death, and if either broke the terms of the covenant, his blood should be spilled as the blood of the slain animal. A blood covenant was a permanent and unconditional covenant.

Both people or parties entering into the Covenant had a part in the ceremony.

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God's Covenant with Abraham is in two parts representing God's part and Abram's part.

NLT – Genesis 15:9-18, ⁹Then the LORD told him, "Bring me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." ¹⁰Abram took all these and killed them. He cut each one down the middle and laid the halves side by side. He did not, however, divide the birds in half. ¹¹Some vultures came down to eat the carcasses, but Abram chased them away. ¹²That evening, as the sun was going down, Abram fell into a deep sleep. He saw a terrifying vision of darkness and horror. ¹³Then the LORD told Abram, "You can be sure that your descendants will be strangers in a foreign land, and they will be oppressed as slaves for four hundred years. ¹⁴But I will punish the nation that enslaves them, and in the end they will come away with great wealth. ¹⁵(But you will die in peace, at a ripe old age.) ¹⁶After four generations your descendants will return here to this land, when the sin of the Amorites has run its course." ¹⁷As the sun went down and it became dark, Abram saw a smoking firepot and a flaming torch pass between the halves of the carcasses. ¹⁸So **the LORD made a covenant with Abram that day** and said, "I have given this land to your descendants, all the way from the border of Egypt to the great Euphrates River.

The heifer, goat, and ram are cut down the middle and laid side by side with space between.

Every sacrificial animal that died in the OT was a typology of Christ and the sacrifice He made at Calvary.

Abraham chases vultures away; the evil one always wants to interrupt and destroy God's Blood Covenant.

God placed Abraham in a deep sleep and in his sleep he saw "a smoking oven and a burning torch passed between those pieces" (KJV).

In the OT the burning lamp signified the presence of the Shekinah glory of God. God was binding Himself, unconditionally, by a blood covenant to Abraham and his descendants forever.

This was God's part of the Covenant.

Although traditionally both parties would join hands and walk between the divided halves, notice that only God walked between them. This is significant.

And now for Abram's part of the Covenant.

NLT – Genesis 17:9-14, ⁹Your part of the agreement," God told Abraham, "is to obey the terms of the covenant. You and all your descendants have this continual responsibility. ¹⁰This is the covenant that you and your descendants must keep: Each male among you must be **circumcised**; ¹¹the flesh of his foreskin must be cut off. This will be a sign that you and they have accepted this **covenant**. ¹²Every male child must be **circumcised** on the eighth

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day after his birth. This applies not only to members of your family, but also to the servants born in your household and the foreign-born servants whom you have purchased. ¹³All must be **circumcised**. Your bodies will thus bear the mark of my **everlasting covenant**. ¹⁴**Anyone who refuses to be circumcised will be cut off from the covenant family for violating the covenant.**

The blood of innocent animals was shed in typology on behalf of God because God didn't as of yet have a physical body!

Circumcision required the shedding of man's blood, not to atone for sin, but as a sign of the covenant.

Now back to Colossians where Paul compared baptism to circumcision.

NLT – Colossians 2:11-15, ¹¹When you came to Christ, you were “circumcised,” but not by a physical procedure. Christ performed a spiritual circumcision—the cutting away of your sinful nature. ¹²**For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized.** And with him you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead. ¹³You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. ¹⁴He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross.

Water baptism is a **spiritual** circumcision that separates from sins, cutting away and burying the old man.

This is where God cuts away a person's sins and joins them to God's Covenant Family.

Remembering that the Greek word for Covenant is diatheke (dee-ath-ay'-kay), and it is interpreted in the NT as both covenant and testament.

While Circumcision was the sign of the Blood Covenant for the Old Covenant (Testament), Baptism is the sign of the Blood Covenant for the New Covenant (Testament).

If you will remember, when the heifer, ram, and goat were cut in two, only God passed between them.

The significance of that was God didn't allow Abram to walk between them because in the typology of man divided from God through sin, man was already suffering the consequences of a broken Covenant. The purpose of walking between the divided carcass was to symbolize that if either party broke their end of the Covenant, they would suffer the same fate of being divided in two and killed.

However, man was already in a broken Covenant with God because of sin; he was already dead.

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As sinful man stood divided from a Holy God by sin, already suffering the consequences of a broken Blood Covenant, Jesus as the Son of God became the Mediator of the division.

And as he hung suspended between heaven and earth, passing between God and man, He created a new Blood Covenant with man.

With Abraham, the sacrifice was a typology of God's part of the Blood Covenant, and Circumcision was man's part.

So, in the New Blood Covenant Jesus' sacrifice was God's part, and Baptism is man's part.

Three Facts about Old Testament Circumcision:

- 1) It was **required**; not optional!
- 2) It was the physical mark of the **everlasting Blood covenant**.
- 3) The **penalty** for refusal was expulsion from the Covenant family.

Three Facts about New Testament Circumcision:

- 1) It is **required**; not optional!
- 2) It is the spiritual mark of the **everlasting Blood covenant**.
- 3) Is there a **penalty** for refusing to be water baptized? Many would say no; but the Old Testament typology would say yes.

NLT – Mark 16:15-16, ¹⁵And then he told them, “Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone. ¹⁶Anyone who believes and is **baptized** will be saved. But anyone who refuses to believe will be condemned.

Baptism is a commanded act of obedience that is required of all Christians; it isn't optional!