

WHY BAPTISTS BELIEVE IN BELIEVER'S BAPTISM
ROMANS 6:4 / 2-11-18 / AM

I. FIRST, BAPTISM IS A SYMBOL, NOT A SACRAMENT.

- A. Sacrament is defined as **“a means of receiving the grace of God.”**—Eph. 2:8-9.
- B. Baptists believe that although baptism is important, it isn't necessary for salvation. Why is it important?
 - 1. It's important because Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist—Matt. 3:16.
 - 2. It's important because Jesus instructs us to baptize new Christians—Matt. 28:19.
 - 3. It's important because it's a symbol of our spiritual union with Christ—Rom. 6:3.
 - 4. It's important because it's a symbol of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection—Col. 2:12.
 - 5. It's important because it's a symbol of the new spiritual life God gives to those who are saved—Romans 6:4.

II. SECOND, BAPTISM IS FOR BELIEVERS, NOT BABIES.

- A. This is what the Bible says—Acts 2:41; 8:12; and 16:30-31.
- B. What about babies?
 - 1. Those religious groups who believe baptism is required for salvation baptize infants by sprinkling or pouring because they believe without it babies and children are lost.
 - 2. The Bible teaches that before a child reaches the age when they can reasonably receive Christ as their savior they are **“safe” not “saved.”**—2 Samuel 12:23.

III. THIRD, BAPTISM IS BY PLUNGING NOT POURING.

- A. This is what the Bible teaches.
 - 1. Our English word **“baptize”** comes from the Greek word used in the N.T. which means **“to dip, to plunge, to submerge or to immerse.”**
 - 2. Jesus was baptized by immersion—Matt. 3:16.
 - 3. The first century disciples practiced baptism by immersion—Acts 8:36-38.

- B. Therefore there are three reasons baptism should be by immersion.
1. First, because that's what the word "**baptize**" means—**plunge or immerse**.
 2. Second, because that's the way Jesus and his disciples were baptized and also the way they baptized others.
 3. Third, because only immersion or plunging accurately symbolizes Jesus' death, burial and resurrection.

IV. FOURTH, BAPTISM IS NECESSARY FOR SUBMISSION NOT SALVATION.

- A. If baptism is a symbol and therefore not essential for salvation, then why should we be baptized?
- B. The answer is that it's a matter of obedience to Christ—Matt. 28:19.
- C. It's also a public stand or proclamation.