



What is baptism?

i There are two rites/ ordinances that Jesus has given the church to carry out...

#1 **Baptism** - Matthew 28:18-20

#2 **Communion** - 1st Corinthians 11:23-26



What's an ordinance?

👍 Ordinances are visual aids to help us better understand and appreciate and testify what Jesus Christ accomplished for us in His redemptive work.



👍 They were instituted by Christ. Since baptism & communion are the only rites which qualify, there can be only two ordinances, neither of which are requirements for salvation.

👍 Ordinances are generally understood to be those things Jesus told us to observe with other Christians.



What's a sacrament?

👎 Roman Catholicism, Eastern Orthodoxy, and Reformed churches use the term "sacrament" to refer to "a rite which results in God's grace being conveyed to the individual."



👎 Catholicism practices seven sacraments. They are baptism, confirmation, holy communion, confession, marriage, holy orders, and the anointing of the sick.

👎 Catholicism believes the sacraments are necessary for salvation and are the vehicles of grace.



The Bible, tells us that grace is not given through outward symbols and no ritual is "necessary for salvation."



Titus 3:4-7 says...

"But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs

✓ **Grace is free !**

i In **Matthew 28:18-20** Jesus' instructions specify that the church is responsible to teach Jesus' word, make disciples, and **baptize** those disciples. These things are to be done everywhere until "the very end of the age."



So, if for no other reason...



Baptism has importance because Jesus commanded it.



What does the word “baptize” mean?

i “Baptism” is a transliteration of a Greek word, “Baptizo”.



Transliteration transfers the spelling of a word from the alphabet of one language into the alphabet of another language. Thus the Greek word “baptizo” becomes the English word “baptism.”

i In the Bible the Greek word for “baptism” is, “Baptizo” which means...

- “to immerse or submerge an object into something else such as a liquid like water or dye.”



What is the mode for baptism ?

i Immersion is the only mode of baptism.



The Greek word “Baptizo”...



Never means to pour or sprinkle.



The Greek word which means “to pour” is “cheo.”



The Greek word which means “to sprinkle” is “rantidzo.”



Pouring & sprinkling does not fulfill the symbolism associated with baptism.



Who is Baptism for?

i **Baptism** is for Believers - *People who have place their faith in Jesus Christ alone for their salvation.*



For example: - Acts 2:38+41

- Acts 8:12

- Acts 8:36-39

- Acts 10:44-47

i **Baptism** is a symbol of the Believer's identification with Christ in His death, burial, & resurrection.



Baptism illustrates...

➔ The death, burial, and resurrection of Christ.



Baptism (at the same time) also illustrates...

➔ Our death to sin and new life in Christ.



Baptism by immersion...

➔ Is entirely symbolic.

➔ It serves as a public testimony of one's salvation.



So how does the picture of **baptism** work?

⚙ As the sinner confesses the Lord Jesus, he dies to sin ([Romans 6:11](#))
➔ Being submerged in the water represents death to sin.

⚙ As the person is raised out of there water...
➔ It represents being cleansed from sin & having new life
([Colossians 2:12](#)).

📖 **Romans 6:4** puts it this way...

"We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."



Here is an example that will help you understand what baptism means...

A wedding ring represents the marital status of the person wearing the ring. The ring does not make the person married; it is simply an symbol identifying the person as being married. In like manner, baptism does not make a person a Christian. What baptism does is identify/ testify that the person is a Christian.



Why do we not **baptise** infants?



In the Bible...

✓ Only Believers who had placed their faith in Christ were **baptized** -
as a public testimony of their faith and identification with Him
([Acts 2:38](#); [Romans 6:3-4](#)).



Water **baptism** by immersion...

- ✓ Is a step of obedience after faith in Christ.
- ✓ It is a proclamation of faith in Christ.
- ✓ It's a statement of submission to Him.
- ✓ Its an identification with His death, burial, & resurrection.



With this in view...

- ✗ Infant **baptism** is not a Biblical practice.
- ✗ An infant cannot place his or her faith in Christ.
- ✗ An infant cannot make a conscious decision to obey Christ.
- ✗ An infant cannot understand what water **baptism** symbolizes.
- ✗ The Bible does not record any infants being **baptized**.
- ✗ The method of infant **baptism** (sprinkling & pouring) fails to agree with the Bible.



How does sprinkling or pouring...

- ! Illustrate the death, burial, & resurrection of Jesus Christ?



Is infant **baptism the new covenant equivalent of circumcision?**



According to this view...

- ✗ Just as circumcision joined a Hebrew to the Abrahamic & Mosaic covenants, so **baptism** joined a person to the New Covenant of salvation through Jesus Christ.



This view is unbiblical !



The New Testament nowhere describes baptism as the New Covenant replacement for Old Covenant circumcision.



The New Testament nowhere describes **baptism** as a sign of the New Covenant.



It is only through faith in Jesus Christ that enables a person to enjoy the blessings of the New Covenant.

(1st Corinthians 11:25; 2nd Corinthians 3:6; Hebrews 9:15).



Baptism does not save a person.

- ✓ It does not matter if you were baptized by immersion, pouring, or sprinkling - if you have not first trusted in Christ for salvation, baptism (no matter the method) is meaningless and useless.
- ✓ Water baptism by immersion is a step of obedience to be done after salvation as a public profession of faith in Christ and identification with Him.



Infant **baptism**...

- ✗ Does not fit the Biblical definition of baptism or the Biblical method of baptism.



If Christian parents wish to dedicate their child to Christ, then a baby dedication service is entirely appropriate.



However, even if infants are dedicated to the Lord, when they grow up they will still have to make a personal decision to believe in Jesus Christ in order to be saved.

 Caution should be used in baptizing young children who have made a profession of faith. While children are capable of truly understanding the Gospel and genuinely receiving Christ at very young ages, it is better to wait until it can be established that they understand the symbolism involved in water baptism. Baptizing them too soon may confuse them and make them think that the water had something to do with their salvation.



What about the “household” baptisms found in the Bible?



When we look at the New Testament, the closest thing to infant baptism that we find is the reference to three “households” being baptized.

#1 In **1st Corinthians 1:16**, Paul says...

“Now I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized any other.”

#2 In **Acts 16:15**, Luke reports concerning the new convert, Lydia, “When she and her household had been baptized, she urged us, saying, ‘If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house and stay.’”

#3 In **Acts 16:33**, Luke tells us that after the earthquake in the jail of Philippi, the jailer “took [Paul and Silas] that very hour of the night and washed their wounds, and immediately he was baptized, he and all his [household].”



In any case...

- ➔ There is no mention of infants in any of these instances of household baptism.
- ➔ It is an argument from silence to say that there must have been small children.
- ➔ The concept of infant baptism goes is contradictory to the very message and method of the gospel.