



"GET A GRIP ON YOUR FAITH"



DOCTRINE #6: THE ORDINANCE OF WATER BAPTISM

What Water Baptism Is Not

Circle the option that best describes each erroneous teaching.

A. **Baptismal regeneration** teaches:

1. Once saved, always saved.
2. Baptism saves you.
3. Previous generations are saved by your baptism.

Why it's bogus:

1. We teach baptism because we are saved, not to *become* saved.
2. The power is in the Blood, not in the tub.
3. The thief on the cross was redeemed, although not baptized, because it is Christ who saves.

B. **Infant baptism** teaches:

1. Baby Christians should be baptized.
2. Babies should be dunked.
3. Baptism is a means of grace.

1. Infant baptism is not expressed or implied in the scriptures.
2. The Great Commission (Matt. 28:19-20) commands us to baptize only believers and disciples.
3. It is contrary to the very symbolism of baptism.
4. It builds false faith in a child and leads to false assumptions.

C. **Baptism for the dead** teaches:

1. The spiritually dead need to be revived.
2. The dead may be vicariously baptized.
3. Corpses should be baptized.

1. The only reference in scripture to a baptism for the dead was made by Paul (I Cor. 15:29), and it was used to show the heathen that it was illegal for them to baptize for the dead (which was a heathen practice) if they didn't believe in the resurrection.
2. We will be called to answer for the deeds done in our body, not somebody else's.

D. **Multiple baptisms** teach:

1. One should never be baptized alone.
2. A believer may be baptized several times.
3. When baptized, one should be immersed three times, symbolizing the Trinity.

1. There is no record of second baptisms in the scriptures, except where the individual had been baptized in ignorance or in false doctrine.
2. Multiple baptisms would nullify the symbol of the perfect work of Christ.

Statement of Faith #6



We believe the ordinance of baptism by immersion in water is commanded of all who repent and believe on Jesus Christ as Savior. It represents having died with Christ and being raised with Him to walk in newness of life.

What We Believe Concerning Water Baptism

- We believe in believer baptism!

- How many ordinances does the Church observe?

We observe two ordinances.

- ▶ What are they?

Water Baptism and the Lord's Supper

- ▶ What is an ordinance?

An ordinance is a command of Christ to be practiced by the church.

- ▶ What is their purpose?

Water Baptism symbolizes spiritual life begun. The Lord's Supper symbolizes spiritual life continued.



The Biblical Teaching of Water Baptism

• What is the Biblical method?

- ▶ The word *baptize* literally means “to dip” or “to immerse”.
- ▶ What do we learn from the following verses regarding the Biblical method of water baptism?

Acts 8:36 – **water is required**

Acts 8:38 – **both went down into water**

Rom. 6:3-4 – **baptismal burial is symbolic of Christ**

Col. 2:12 – **to bury anything means to cover it**

Matt 3:16 – **to come out implies much water**

Acts 8:39 – **the one baptized comes up out of water**

John 3:23 – **much water is needed**

• What is the Biblical formula?

- ▶ According to Matt. 28:19, what is the biblical formula for water baptism?

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

- ▶ Does Acts 2:38 contradict Matthew’s formula?

No. This verse does not lay down a formula; rather, it describes the reason and purpose of baptism, acknowledging Jesus to be Christ and Lord.

• What is the Biblical meaning?

- ▶ Baptism is symbolic of 3 important truths:

1. **The gospel is proclaimed.**
Read I Cor. 15:3-4.
2. **Our conversion is pictured.**
Read 2 Cor. 5:17 and Rom. 6:3-5.
3. **Our hope is declared.**
Read John 14:19

- ▶ What is a good definition of water baptism?

Water baptism is the **outward testimony of an **inward change**.**

• What is the Biblical timing?

- ▶ F.F. Bruce, one of the finest New Testament scholars of our time, states that “the idea of an **unbaptized Christian** is simply **not entertained** in the New Testament.”
- ▶ Baptism ought to be the “first of all outwardly duties” of the new Christian.
 1. The **Ethiopian official** was baptized immediately. (Acts 8:36-38)
 2. **Paul** was baptized by **Ananias** within hours after conversion. (Acts 9:18)
 3. **Cornelius** and his house full of friends obeyed the Lord in baptism the very day that saving faith came. (Acts 10:47-48)
 4. **Lydia** and her household were baptized shortly after conversion. (Acts 16:14-15)
 5. The **Philippian jailor** and his household were baptized that same hour. (Acts 16:33)
 6. In the light of this **overwhelming evidence**, we cannot **postpone** baptism after conversion. Peter preached in Acts 2:38, “Repent and be baptized.”

Summary: Why Should I Be Baptized?

1. Jesus was, and He is our example! (Matt. 3:13-17)
2. Jesus commanded it and He’s our Lord! (Matthew 28:19)
3. Every believer was baptized in the book of Acts!
4. It is the outward picture of the inward reality of my death to sin and resurrection of life! (Rom. 6:3-4)
5. I am not disciplined until I have been baptized. (Matt. 28:18-20)
6. The great Apostle Paul was baptized. (Acts 9:18)
7. It is proof to God that my faith is valid.
8. Because it is the only outward act that fully represents the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ.