

Baptism

ROBINSON MINISTRY

BAPTISM AND ITS CONNECTION TO SALVATION

- What is Baptism
- What are three methods of Baptism
- What is the most important element is Baptism

What is Baptism?

Baptism is the act or event where one begins a new lifestyle with Christ Jesus being the center of his or her life. It is doing away with one's old nature and beginning a new spiritual life in Christ.

(Ref. Galatians 5:27; Romans 6:3-4)



What are the three (3) methods of Baptism?

The first method is by sprinkling water upon the head of the candidate at the altar. The second method is baptizing by pouring water upon the candidate's head at the altar. The third method is immersion. The candidate's whole body is put under water and brought up, using a pool or lake.

With Pentecost and beyond, John's baptism in water is seen as fulfilled in baptism in the Spirit.

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THE FATHER, THE SON, THE HOLY SPIRIT

Why do we baptize?

We baptize because Jesus commanded all who would follow Him to be baptized with water and the Holy Spirit. (Ref. Matthew 28:19; Acts 10:44 - 49).

We are to minister to the spiritual, intellectual, physical, emotional and environmental needs of all people by spreading Christ's liberating gospel through word and deed. We are to seek out and save lost souls while utilizing this enormous opportunity to evangelize and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.. New and regenerated believers enter into a resurgent life, journeying and experiencing fellowshiping with other believers. Baptized Christians grow in their spirituality by God's grace and mercy, which allows salvation by faith in Jesus.

EARLY BAPTISM TRADITIONS

Baptism using water is a symbol of religious purification. The Greek verb for "baptize", baptizing, is formed from baptein, "dip" and means frequently or intensively, plunge, immerse. Rites of immersion were not uncommon the world in which early Christianity developed. 'each one of you should be baptized into the name of Jesus Christ' Acts 2:38.



According to the Didache (early second century) different forms of baptism were practiced in the early church, but with evident preference given to immersion.

What is the most important element in Baptism?

The most important element in Baptism is not water, but the fire of the Holy Spirit, inwardly converting and regenerating one's spiritual being to Christ Jesus. There can be no real Baptism without the fire of God's spirit. (Ref. John 1:31-33; Acts 2:34)

SYMBOL

Baptism as a symbol of purification

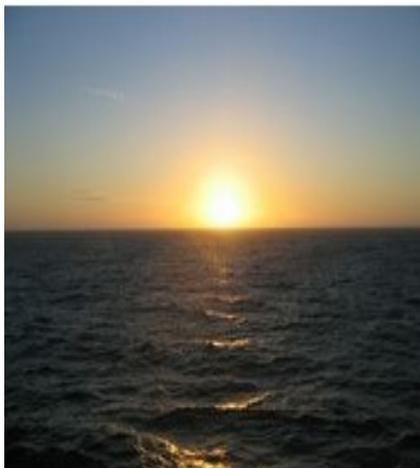
One type of symbolism Christians were connected with was that purification from sin, from the destruction and profane sphere before entering the holy area, from something under a taboo, a rite of initiation or passage. Such cleansing takes place when one stands on the verge of a new state in life or is entering into a new community and phase in life. The symbolism of a union with Christ in his death, burial, and resurrection seems to be required by baptism. Water is a symbol of washing and cleansing, and the water of baptism symbolizes washing and purification from sin, "Rise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on his name" (Acts 22 v 16). Baptism is not a means of being saved, but a symbol of our salvation.. One type of symbolism Christians were connected with was that purification from sin, from the destruction and profane sphere before entering the holy area, from something under a taboo, a rite of initiation or passage. Such cleansing takes place when one stands on the verge of a new state in life or is entering into a new community and phase in life. The symbolism of a union with Christ in his death, burial, and resurrection seems to be required by baptism. Water is a symbol of

JOHN THE BAPTIST

The baptism practiced by John the Baptist would seem to reflect far more the Jewish pattern of ritual washing than the type of baptism employed by Christians, which constituted a symbol of initiation into the Christian community on the basis of belief in and loyalty to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. There seems, however, to be no reason to employ a different expression for baptism in the case of John than in the case of the early Christians. In some languages, for example, one may employ an expression such as 'to enter the water'

or 'to undergo the ritual involving water.' Such expressions do not necessarily imply the quantity of water or the particular means by which water is applied. Baptism has three methods. Acts 2: 41 and Acts 8: 36-39 give us some insight. Some traditionally think of baptism as being immersed in a pool or lake.

REPENTANCE THE DAWN OF A NEW DAY



(Acts 2 v 37 – 47) Peter said to them, 'Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.' 'Repent,' (metanoeo) means to change one's mind or purpose. When you couple it with the Hebrew word 'nacham', which means to be sorry, or to suffer grief, then you have the idea behind Biblical repentance. Biblical repentance is to have sorrow over sin, which results in a change of direction. Three thou-

sand or more persons being saved in one day, it's hard to imagine how the apostles "immersing" over three thousand believers, especially in situations where there is a lack of sufficient water to be immersed, especially in a desert region lacking water.

TRADITIONS

Tradition has passed along the methods of baptizing by sprinkling water upon the head of the candidate at the altar and is baptizing by pouring water upon the candidate's head. The third method is baptizing by immersion. Acts 8: 36-39 indicates a candidate's whole body was put under water and brought up, using the water that was available. There are three methods of baptism in the Church. The book of Acts 2: 38 tells us, "None." No one method has significance over the other. They all involve the use of water, which is the "outward sign" denoting an "inward spiritual change" to a new life in Christ Jesus. The choice of method is up to the candidate. All three methods hold equal significance.

Christians grow in their spirituality by God's grace and mercy, which allows salvation by faith in Jesus. A transformation occurs marking their difference and a sign of regeneration and new birth. The sacrament of baptism and the accompanying vows are the external expression of this gift. Water in baptism represents God's promise of forgiveness and salvation.

What is Baptism? *Baptism is the act or event where one begins a new life-style with Christ Jesus being the center of his or her life. It is doing away with one's old nature and beginning a new spiritual life in Christ. (Ref. Galatians 5:27; Romans 6:3-4)*

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BAPTISM AND SALVATION

Matthew 19: 13-15 tell how persons brought their children to Jesus “for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked those who brought them. Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.’ When he had placed His hands on them, He went on from there.” We baptize infants and children because we believe the grace of God is also available to the lives of infants and children. Baptism of young children is to be retained in the church, and we hold that all children are members of Gods’ kingdom. Children should be baptized so that the child’s life is on the pathway toward a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. We are saved by God’s grace and mercy through faith in Jesus and Gods’ agape love of humankind.



HISTORICAL CUSTOMS

It was a Jewish custom to baptize converts and some Jewish sects practiced baptism as a symbol of purification. Ceremonial cleaning by water and/or blood was an important part of the Levitical system.

- ◆ John preached a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins (Lk 3:3)
- ◆ Baptism is a confession of faith in Christ.
- ◆ Baptism is a cleansing or washing of the soul from sin.
- ◆ Baptism symbolizes death to sin and a new life in righteousness.