

CHRISTIAN BAPTISM

ROMANS 6:1-4

Today we have the privilege of baptizing people who have come to faith in Jesus Christ. What is the importance and significance of baptism? Why is this a very special day in their lives?

I. THE IMPORTANCE OF BAPTISM.

- A. The Church Is Commanded to Baptize. Matt. 28:19-20
- B. Christians Are Commanded to Be Baptized. Acts 2:28.
 - Those who came to Christ in Acts were baptized immediately.
- C. Jesus' Example Teaches the Importance of Baptism. Matt. 3:13-17.

II. THE REQUIREMENTS FOR BAPTISM.

- A. A Proper Relationship with Christ. Acts 8:37
 - 1. Repentance is one aspect of faith. Acts 2:38; Matt. 3:8.
 - 2. This excludes infant baptism as Biblical baptism.
- B. A Proper Method of Baptism.
 - 1. "Baptism" means immersion.
 - 2. Immersion is the Biblical mode of baptism. Matt. 3:13ff; Acts 8:39
- C. A Proper Motive for Baptism.
 - Not a religious ritual to secure salvation, but an act of obedience and a public symbol of our salvation.

III. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF BAPTISM.

- A. A Symbol of the Salvation Experience.
 - 1. Identification with Christ. Rom. 6:3; Acts 2:38; 1 Cor. 10:2.
 - 2. Union with Christ. Rom. 6:3,4; 1 Cor. 12:13
 - 3. Forgiveness of sins. Rom. 6:3; Acts 22:16
Not baptized into his example or his teachings, but his death for our sins.
1 Cor. 15:3.
 - 4. A changed life. Rom 6:4; 2 Cor. 5:17
My baptism should remind me to refrain from sin.

B. An Act of Identification with the Local Church. Acts 2:41-42

1. Faith – “gladly received his word”
2. Baptism – “were baptized”
3. Church – “were added to them”

Those who are baptized today are sharing a testimony with you. They have proclaimed their faith in Christ, that he has forgiven their sins, changed their lives and that they desire to follow him as Savior and Lord. Perhaps you need to hear their testimony and follow their example. If so, would you come to Christ today?

Perhaps you have been saved and baptized, but have drifted away from the commitment that you made at your baptism. Do you need to remember and return to that commitment?

Perhaps you are reminded today of your need to be publicly identified with Christ and his church. Would you like to make that commitment today?