

Baptism

What Does Baptize Mean?

- The word baptize comes from the Greek word baptizo, meaning to bury or immerse.
- “Buried with him in baptism...”
Colossians 2:12

Does It Matter How You Baptize?

- God told Naaman to dip in the Jordan river 7 times. Was it important which river (water is water) and why not just once (what is the big deal?).
- Naaman was cured of his leprosy after dipping 7 times in the Jordan River.

Does It Matter How You Baptize ?

- God told the Israelites to march around Jericho 70 times. Did it matter if they just changed God's way a little and quit at 69 trips? The walls fell down after 70 trips.

Follow God's Pattern

- Exodus 25:40 “See that you make all things according to the pattern that I showed you.”

God's Instructions To Man Are Important to God

- I Corinthians 11:1-2 “Keep the ordinances as they were delivered unto you.”
- The two church ordinances are the Lord's supper (communion) and baptism. It is important to God that we follow the pattern delivered to us in his word.

Much Water Needed To Immerse

- The Bible says John the Baptist was baptizing near Salim, because there was much water there. If you are going to sprinkle or pour, you do not need much water.
- Much water is needed to immerse (or bury).

What Is The Purpose of Baptism?

- Some think the purpose of baptism is to “christen”.
- The word Christen means to make like Christ, or to make one a Christian.

Christ Was Not Christened

- Baptism does not make a person like Christ.
- Christ walked a long distance to be baptized by John The Baptist in the Jordan River.
- Not to become a Christian (he was already Christ).

Baptism Is Obedience

- Baptism does not make one a Christian, baptism is the first step of obedience for those who have already become Christian believers.

Baptism By Denomination

Denomination	Method	Infants	For Salvation
Catholics	Sprinkle or Pour	Yes	Yes
Episcopalians	All Three	Mostly	Mostly
Lutherans	Sprinkle or Pour	Yes	Yes
Methodists	All Three	Yes	Yes
Presbyterians	All Three	Yes	No
Assembly of God	Immersion	No	Varies
Baptists	Immersion	No	No
Quakers & Salvation Army	No Baptism (not import)	n/a	n/a

Obey God, Rather Than Man

- 90% of all people identified under the heading of Christian do not baptize following the pattern given by God's word.
- Most churches baptize infants (no infant is baptized in the Bible)
- And most churches sprinkle or pour, which is not "Baptizo".

Source of Infant Baptism

- 1050 Pope Leo 9th ordered all infants & children to be baptized to make them Christians.
- The Bible says hearing the Gospel and believing it is what makes Christians, not baptism.



Infant Baptism

- “Begat with the word” (James 1:18).
- “Born again by the word” (I Peter 1:23).
- The Gospel was preached and people were saved. (Acts 10:44)

Infant Baptism Is A Killer

- Dr. John Robertson, Great Presbyterian of Glasgow Scotland, preaching before his home church of 4,000 said: “Infant baptism is the most devastating of all heresies of all time. That simple little addition to God’s word has led millions of souls to hell, believing that they had become Christians when baptized as babies.”

My Personal Experience

- I was on church visitation, going house to house knocking on doors to give people the Gospel and invite them to church.

My Personal Experience

- At one house, a lady opened the door. I identified myself and my church, then asked if she were a Christian. She said: “Oh, yes. I was baptized a Christian as a baby.” From that day on I knew that infant baptism was a killer, because it leads people to a false belief that being baptized as an infant made them a Christian.

Babies Can't Understand

- Jesus said: “Ye must be born again.” You are born again by hearing the word and believing it. Babies can't understand the Bible.

Christ's Instructions

- Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature, baptizing them..." Matthew 28:19
- Sequence: Preach, teach, baptize
- A baby does not fully understand preaching, teaching or the meaning of baptism.

The Great Commission

- You first preach and teach people about Christ. Then those who believe are instructed to be baptized.
- Baptism is not for the purpose of making Christians, it is for Christians to publicly identify with the death, burial and resurrection of Christ.

Baptism is For Believers

- The Ethiopian Eunuch had studied the Bible before he asked: “What doth hinder me to be baptized.” The answer : “If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest.” (Acts 8:36-37).
- Infants can not believe with all of their heart.

Requirements

- “Then they that gladly received his word were baptized” (Acts 2:41.)
- Infants do not gladly receive the word as they can’t understand it.

What Does Baptism Do?

- “...we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.” Romans 6:4
- How can an infant walk in a new life after baptism?

Baptism Is A Likeness

- For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection...”
Romans 6:5
- Our baptism is a likeness or picture showing that we identify with Christ in a new life.

Historical Evidence

- There are literally hundreds of records showing that throughout history, believers' baptism was by immersion.
- There are mosaics on ancient buildings, archeological records, and historical writings.

Original Baptism Immersion

- Most encyclopedias acknowledge that immersion was the practice for baptism by the early church.

New International Encyclopedia

- “In the primitive Church the ordinary mode of baptism was by immersion, for which purpose baptisteries began to be erected in the third, perhaps in the second century and the sexes were usually baptized apart.”

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New International Encyclopedia

- “The earliest baptisteries preserved are in the Roman Catacombs and these were used during the persecutions; the best known is the baptistery at the Catacomb of Pontianus.”

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Official Catholic Encyclopedia

- The Official Catholic Encyclopedia, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, released by Cardinal Farley, on page 259 states:
 - “The most ancient form usually employed was unquestionably immersion...In the Latin Church, immersion seems to have prevailed until the 12th century.

History of Baptism by Immersion

- From time of Christ to 1300 A.D. mode of Baptism by Separatist and Catholic Churches was immersion.
- 627 Easter, Bishop Paulinus immersed 3,000 Northumbrians in a pool near Harbottle, England. Monument with inscription of the fact remains today.

History of Baptism (2 of 3)

- Cardinal Pulis, who lectured at Oxford wrote in 1150 A.D., “Whilst the candidate is immersed in water, the death of Christ is suggested; whilst covered with water the burial of Christ is shown forth; whilst he is raised from the waters, the resurrection of Christ is proclaimed.”

Baptism in the Catacombs

- Christians dug tunnels below Rome to flee persecution. Archeologists have found 25 miles of Catacombs, including a 3-4 feet deep baptistery. To baptize by sprinkling or pouring, you do not need a deep pool.

Baptism By Immersion In The Catacombs

- If anyone ever had an excuse not to baptize by immersion, it would be those who were in the catacombs, but they baptized by immersion.

History of Baptism (3 of 3)

- In 1311, the Catholic Council at Ravenna permitted sprinkling as an exception. At that time immersion was still the regular mode of baptism.

From Exception to Norm

- The Catechism of 1604 made sprinkling the norm. The ancient practice of immersion set forth in God's Word had lasted 1400 years, until superseded by the tradition of man.

Man's Tradition

- Man's tradition replaced the pattern God gave for baptism.
- The Bible says: "In vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men...ye reject the commandment of God that ye may keep your own tradition (Mark 7:7-9).

What If Baptism Is Embarrassing or Inconvenient?

- Jesus commanded his followers to preach, teach and baptize.
- If you refuse to be baptized, you thwart God's plan for spreading the Gospel.
- Some think it is embarrassing or inconvenient to be baptized.

Why Be Baptized

- “Therefore to him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is sin” (James 4:17).
- “Ye are my friends if ye do whatsoever I have commanded you”(John 15:14).
- A lot of people suffered and died to follow the Bible pattern for Baptism.

A True Story of Baptism

- A pastor from Vallejo, CA, told the congregation the story of his experience as a young preacher in Kansas.
- An elderly lady was saved and asked to be baptized “like the first Christians” in the river. It was winter. The pastor asked if it wasn’t too cold and if she would like to wait until summer.

Not Inconvenient to Her

- She did not think that it was Biblical to wait and she might not live that long.
- She insisted that it was God's will for her to be baptized (in the river, in winter)

Baptism Story (2)

- Upon hearing that his mother was to be baptized in the cold river, her unsaved son said: if the preacher kills my mother in the icy cold baptism, I will kill the preacher.
- The preacher prayed hard and decided to go ahead with the baptism. The elderly lady was baptized, a fire was built and ready for her to be warmed when she came out of the water. Dry blankets and clothes were available.

A Sweet, Precious Testimony

- It was a glorious baptismal ceremony that those who attended said they would never forget.
- She lived many more years, with a sweet radiant testimony that influenced many for Christ.

Not Always Convenient



How To Please God

- “To obey is better than sacrifice.”
- When Jesus was baptized (at age 30, not as an infant) it was the start of his ministry.
- When we come out of the baptistery it is to “walk in newness of life.”
- We begin a new ministry.

Inconvenient for Jesus ?



How To Please God (2)

- When Jesus was baptized: “and lo a voice from heaven, saying: this is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”
- When we yield to God’s pattern for baptism of believers by immersion, God is well pleased.

In Conclusion

- “God changes not.”
- “Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forevermore.”
- God preserves his word. “Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my word shall not pass away.”
- God’s pattern hasn’t changed; but 90% have changed the pattern.

In Conclusion

- Down through the ages many suffered and died to be true to Biblical baptism—for believers only and by immersion.
- Keep the ordinance the way it was delivered to you.
- Follow God's original pattern.
- For your joy and the glory of God.

Ana-Baptists (Baptists)

- Those who did not accept infant baptism, encouraged re-baptism.
- They were given the name “Ana-Baptist (re-baptizers)
- Throughout history 10s of thousands were killed by Catholics and Protestants who considered the re-baptizing to be heresy.

Reason for Persecution

- Bible as the sole rule of faith and practice - the authority of the Scriptures
- Freedom of religion - liberty of conscience
- Separation of church and state
- Pacifism or nonresistance

Reason For Persecution

- Separation or nonconformity to the world
- Voluntary church membership
- Believer's baptism
- Evangelistic zeal
- Priesthood of all believers