

Baptist Distinctives: Believers Baptism

The Main Idea: Only professing believers in Jesus Christ are to be baptized by immersion as a sign and seal of the New Covenant in Jesus Christ. Baptism is a faithful act of the believer which publicly unites him or herself to Jesus' burial and resurrection, unites the believer to the Church in membership, and by faith appeals to God in repentance for a clean conscience.

Introduction: The Logical Conclusion of Sola Scriptura

1. Believers Baptism is where Baptists get their identity
2. Baptism is part of our Conversion experience
3. Baptism is a sign and seal of the New Covenant

What Is Baptism? How Should One Be Baptized?

1. βαπτίζω (*Baptidzō*)– To Immerse, Dip, Submerge
2. Mode of Baptism – To be fully immersed into Water
 - a. **See Mark 1:9-10, Acts 8:38-39**
 - b. Not Sprinkling of Water

Where Did Christian Baptism Begin?

1. John the Baptist – Baptism of Repentance (**Matt 3**)
2. Repentance → The Sign of Repentance: Baptism
3. Radical Shift in Redemptive History
 - a. Jews were Circumcised
 - b. Still needed to Repent to assuage God's Wrath
 - c. Pharisees could not presume their ancestry or God's covenant with Abraham kept them Safe with God
 - d. Revolutionary Message: Stones could become God's Children

Why Are Christians Baptized?

1. Christ Commanded It (**Matt 28:18-20**)
 - a. Throughout the Book of Acts this is a Command
 - b. First Act of Obedience for a Believer is Baptism
 - c. Those Baptized are Disciples who are "Made"
2. We are Called to be Christlike (**Matt 3:14-17**)
 - a. We are Identified with Jesus and His Name (**Acts 2:38, 8:15-16, 10:48, 19:4-5, etc.**)
 - b. Old Man & New Man (**Rom 6:1-6, 9-11; Gal 2:20**)
3. To Identify with the People of God (**1 Cor 12:12-13**)
 - a. Christians are Baptized Believers INTO the Church

Who Should Be Baptized?

1. Only those who are Born Again (Those Who Are Saved)
2. **Pattern in the NT:** Repentance and Belief, then Baptism
 - a. Acts 2:38, 8:12-13, 9:17-18, 10:44-48, 18, 19
 - b. Believers Baptism is the Oldest Practice of Baptism
3. **Lutherans and the Roman Catholic Church**
 - a. Regenerative Baptism: Sacrament which removes original sin and confers grace to the individual
 - b. Infant Baptism – believes the ritual saves babies
 - c. Proof Text: **1 Peter 3:21**
 - d. Response:
 - i. Salvation is by Grace through Faith in Jesus Christ ALONE!
 - ii. The Conversion *Experience* includes Baptism
 - iii. NT – no explicit examples of infant baptism
 - iv. Sacramental View: Not documented until the end of the 2nd Century: Irenaeus and Tertullian
4. **Presbyterians and Reformed Churches**
 - a. Calvin, Zwingli, and Covenantal Baptism
 - b. Abrahamic Covenant continues into the New Covenant: Circumcision Parallels Baptism (**Gen 17**)
 - c. Baptism does not Save, but incorporates the individual/infant into the Covenant Community
 - d. Response: New Theology: Not until Reformation
 - e. Biblical Texts:
 - i. **Colossians 2:11-13** – Spiritual circumcision of the heart which Baptism signifies by Faith
 - ii. Old Covenant is *Replaced* by the New Covenant
 - iii. **Romans 4:9-11** – National Israel with a Remnant of True Believers is *different* than the Church which is marked by Professing Believers

When Should A Person Be Baptized?

1. Immediately – In the NT, there is no time between profession of faith and baptism (**Study Acts**)
2. Objection: Wait for Evidence of Repentance – Baptism is Evidence of Repentance and Faith (**1 Peter 1:21**)

What Is The Goal Of Baptism?

1. To Glorify Christ and Celebrate His Redemption
2. Jesus is Magnified Publicly in Believers Baptism
3. Reminds Us: Jesus is Resurrected & Alive and Believers Baptized are in Him