



THE BELIEVER AND WATER BAPTISM

Matthew 28:18-20

According to Jesus, who is to be baptized?

His disciples

And what is a disciple?

A student submitted to his/her master's teaching

This is why we often ask, "If you have surrendered your life to Jesus Christ but have not submitted to the waters of baptism, why not?"

According to Jesus, in what name is the genuine disciple to be baptized?

“in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

“in the name of” is not a tag line for baptism nor the words that seal the deal in prayer. The phrase means ‘in keeping with the character/nature of’

ACTS 2:38

With what heart is one to be baptized?

A repentant heart borne out of a godly sorrow
for the sin that we, by God's grace, have left behind
(2 Cor. 7:10)

Beware: Citing Acts 2:38, some say "If you were baptized in any other name than the name of Jesus, it doesn't count!"

Jesus didn't stutter.



“And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit...”

The laying on of hands and prayer at the close of one's baptism celebrates the Holy Spirit's coming (at conversion) to indwell the one who has been made new through faith in Christ.

The same Spirit enables the disciple to “walk in newness of life,” living for the glory of God (Acts 1:8)

What does baptism symbolize for the church?

- Spiritual cleansing. Fruit in keeping with repentance.
(Luke 3: 7-14; 2 Cor. 5:17)
- The death of the old man and the rising up of the new man (Romans 6:1-14)
 - Fresh start. New beginning.
Intro to the Grand Adventure (Matt. 3:13-17)

What is our practice in regard to baptism?

- Believer's baptism. Infants and children are consecrated, not baptized. Baptism is reserved for those who have come to saving faith.
- Immersion. Most common word for "baptize" in the NT mean "to fully dip."
 - Trine immersion (tradition from Matt. 28)

- Forward facing

Tradition from the Rom. 6 language regarding baptism and “the likeness of His death”

“Jesus said, ‘It is finished!’ With that He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.” (John 19:30)

Plus, it’s an awesome opportunity to demonstrate true humility by falling face down before the Almighty



SO...

Water baptism of true disciples is a clear command to the Church

Water baptism is really not a choice for one who has, by faith, placed the full weight of his/her trust in Christ for salvation. He has clearly commanded baptism which serves as an outward expression of the inward change Christ brought in us.

In some respects, water baptism is a first step of obedience to the One we call “Lord.”

To the Christ-follower who has been putting off Christ’s clear command to express your faith publicly through baptism:

Hear - and heed - the words of Jesus:

“Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’
and do not do what I say?”