

Baptism

purpose: To show that baptism by immersion is the public declaration of faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

center it: In baptism we embrace the death and resurrection of Jesus in our place.

Acts 22:3-16

- Paul's conversion and baptism
- Possibly the most dramatic turn-around conversion experience. He even gets a new name.
- As a symbol of this transformation, Paul was baptized.

Matthew 3:1-17

- Example of Jesus
- Note the word repentance: acknowledge and turn away
- John associated baptism with repentance. Jesus had nothing of which he needed to repent, but chose to be baptized for 2 reasons:
 - As an example for us
 - For those who wouldn't be able to be baptized (thief on the cross)

John 4:1,2

- Jesus' disciples baptized.

Matthew 28:19

- Jesus gives a command to baptize.

John 3:1-8

- Nicodemus
 - How do I be born again?
 - Jesus said he must be born of
 - 1) water (baptized)
 - 2) the spirit
 - Baptism means "to immerse".
 - Can't expect a righteous life from fleshly pursuits.
 - Flesh = flesh, Spirit = spirit, Flesh ≠ spirit
 - Water tap = water, water tap ≠ orange juice
 - Nicodemus is trying to live the righteous life via a life in the flesh.
 - How do I have the transformation? Look at the crucified Savior as the Israelites did in the wilderness (the serpent in the wilderness).

Romans 6:3,4

- We are baptized into Christ's death. Jesus died in our place.
- We are buried & raised with Jesus, so we can walk in newness of life too.
- Baptism is an outward expression of our confidence in Jesus.

Acts 8:26-40

- Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch

1 Corinthians 12:13

- Baptized into one body.
- What is the body?

Ephesians 5:23

- The body is the church.

Acts 16:25-34

- Paul and Silas in prison singing together.
- Earthquake lets all of the prisoners loose, and the jailor pulls his sword to kill himself because he thought that they had surely escaped.
- Paul says, No! We're all here! and preach Jesus to him.
- Jailor asks "What must I do to be saved"
- He is baptized in response.

Ephesians 4:4,5

- Are there many types of baptism?
- Scripture teaches one type of baptism. That is, baptism by immersion.

Matthew 28:19,20

- Make disciples and baptize them, and teach them.
- Baptism involves a process- a discipling process.

James 2:19

- A purely intellectual understanding is not enough. Just believing is not enough.
- Our life needs to be in accord with our belief. The life should demonstrate what is going on in the mind.

Acts 2:38

- There should be a repentance- a heart change and a transformation of life.
- Doesn't mean that you have to have every last thing squared away, but the life trajectory should be toward Jesus.

Acts 8:36

- If you believe with all your heart, you may be baptized.

appeal: How about it? Do you want to be baptized as a public expression of your confidence in Jesus?

defend it:

1 Corinthians 15:29 - Can be baptized for someone after they have already died

- Paul is affirming that there is in fact a resurrection.
- What will those do who are baptized for the dead? What is Paul talking about
 - Paul is neither affirming nor denying the practice. He is simply using it as an illustration to show that these people believe in a resurrection.
 - Similar to the rich man and Lazarus parable. He isn't endorsing the philosophy, just using it as an illustration.
 - He says "those" or "they, not "we" or "us". He's not talking about his own church or group of believers, but some other outside group.