

The Biblical Teaching on Baptism in Water

Part 1 – Basic Principles

1. How is Baptism in Water conducted in the New Covenant?

The person being baptized was immersed completely (Greek word “baptizo” = “to plunge, dip, immerse”) under water and then brought back up again.

Mark 1:5 : “baptized... in the Jordan River”

Mark 1:10 : Jesus came “up out of the water”

John 3:23 : “John... was baptizing in Aenon... because there was much water there”

Acts 8:36-39 : “they came to some water... they both went down into the water... they came up out of the water”

2. We are followers of Jesus in all things in the New Covenant; so, when was He baptized, how, and why?

When (Luke 3:21-23) : At the age of around 30 before He began His ministry

How (Matthew 3:13,16) : By immersion administered by John the Baptist

Why (Matthew 3:15) : To fulfill all righteousness

3. Does it matter in whose name we are baptized in the New Covenant?

Acts 19:1-7 : The baptism of John was a baptism of repentance in preparation of Jesus’ first appearance; baptism in the name of Jesus in contrast, is the New Covenant baptism

Matthew 28:18-20 : In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit

4. What are the stages building up to true New Covenant baptism?

Acts 2:41 : receiving the Word of Christ

Acts 8:12,38; 9:18; 16:31-33; 18:8 : believing with a whole heart, the good news that Jesus Christ is the Son of God

Acts 16:14-15 : responding from the heart to the gospel about Christ

Acts 2:38 : repentance

Luke 3:7-14 : bring forth fruits in keeping with repentance

5. What is signified by Baptism in Water?

I Peter 3:21-22; Acts 22:16 : an appeal to God for a good conscience by washing, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ

Romans 6:1-11; Colossians 2:11-12 : crucifixion and burial of our old self into death with Christ, so that as Christ was raised from the dead, we can walk in newness of life by faith in the working of God

Part 2 – Administrations

The following are various interpretations and administrations of baptism among the different so-called Christian denominations today. For each one, write your perspective on it and whether it is supported Biblically.

1. “Baptism is necessary for salvation, and the act of baptism by sprinkling or pouring itself causes regeneration. It is a sacrament by which the church bestows the grace of God upon its members. Therefore, baptism should be administered by the local church to infants soon after they are born, so that they can immediately become members of the Church, Christ’s Body.” _____ UnScriptural

2. “Infants were circumcised as a sign of entrance into the Old Covenant and baptism is parallel to that as a sign of entrance into the New Covenant. Since the book of Acts refers to “households” who were baptized, when parents become believers, all in their household, including infants should automatically be baptized.” _____ Unscriptural

3. Baptism is the means by which one becomes a part of the Body of Christ, and specifically the local church fellowship. Therefore, to be a member one must be baptized into that local church. _____ Unscriptural

4. Baptism is an act of obedience to the Word of God by ones who have received the gospel of Jesus Christ, believe with their whole heart that He is the Son of God, respond from the heart by repenting of their sins, and seek to bring forth fruits in keeping with repentance. Therefore, it should be administered only to those who give a believable profession of the above. _____ Scriptural