

IMMERSED IN CHRIST

Based on the command of Christ #47 – “Baptize my disciples”

Video: Nacho Libre Baptism scene

Matthew 28:19–20 - “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

The church is responsible to...

- (1) Teach God’s word,
- (2) Make disciples, and
- (3) Baptize disciples everywhere (“all nations”) until “the very end of the age.”

I. What Is Baptism?

1. An Outward Testimony

Baptism is an outward witness (testimony) of an inward faith in Jesus Christ alone for salvation (Romans 10:9).

It is also moving from just being an individual into being part of the Body of Christ!

If there is no repentance in the heart, you come up just a wet sinner!

2. An Act of Obedience

Baptism is also an act of obedience to the command of Jesus, declaring one’s faith with Jesus, their crucified, buried, and risen Savior (Romans 6:5).

- (1) A person believes in the Lord Jesus and then
- (2) He is baptized.

Acts 2:41 - “Those who accepted [Peter’s] message were baptized.”

Baptism is a visible declaration and obedience to the gospel of Jesus Christ!

Baptism Word Meaning - The meaning of the word "baptize" comes from a Greek "to submerge and soak".

Baptism Expression - The action of being immersed in the water pictures dying and being buried with Christ as well as Jesus resurrection and so immersion is the only method of baptism, which illustrates being buried with Christ and being raised with Him.

1 Peter 3:18-22

18. For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit,

19. through whom also he went and preached to the spirits in prison

20. who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water,

21. and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also--not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

22. who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand--with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

Romans 6:3-4 - "Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."

1. Jesus – Savior of the world – Only person who could do this!

2. The Universal Church - Or global church - people who have confessed with their mouth and believed in their heart Jesus Christ is Lord across the world.

3. The Local Church - COTP or other churches consisting of people who have confessed with their mouth and believed in their heart Jesus Christ is Lord.

II. Who Should Be Baptized?

Only those who are born again and desire to become disciples!

Mt. 28:18-20

18. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

19. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

20. and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

1 Corinthians 12:13 - "We were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink."

Acts 8:35-36 - "As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?'"

Galatians 3:27 - "For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ."

1. The Gospel - Baptism shows personal identification with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus and invites others to do the same!

"You were raised with Him (Jesus) through faith!" (Col. 2:12)

2. Obedience – Remember, both Jesus and his apostles gave the command for disciples to be baptized as an expression of that discipleship. (Matt. 28:19, Acts 2:38)

III. Do You Have To Be Baptized To Be Saved?

Very simply... No!

Two Biblical illustrations...

A who was asked what was required of him to be saved, Paul did not mention baptism, but simply said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus."

The thief who died on the cross next to Jesus was promised by Jesus that "today you will be with me in Paradise," though he had not been baptized.