

“Church Matters: Baptism”
Colossians 2:8-15

What Is Baptism?

- Baptism is gospel speech and testimony.
 - Baptism dramatically portrays the believer’s union with Christ.
 - We died with Christ. (Col. 2:11)
 - We were buried with Christ. (Col. 2:12a)
 - We were raised with Christ. (Col. 2:12b)

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. (Romans 6:3-5)

So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. (Romans 6:11)

- Immersion best communicates this drama of salvation in Christ.
- Baptism is a beautiful reminder of what has happened to you as a believer and everything you have in Christ.

There is a great danger in the Christian life of seeing Christ and our being in Christ as sufficient for some but not all of our heavenly treasures. But if we seek innocence, it will be found in His virgin conception; if we seek mortification of the flesh, it will be found in His tomb; if we seek power for living, it will be found in His resurrection. (John Calvin)

Who Should Be Baptized?

- Baptism is intended for those who have trusted savingly in Christ.
 - In the New Covenant community (the church) everyone knows the Lord.

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, ³² not

like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. ³³ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more." (Jeremiah 31:31-34)

- In the New Covenant community (the church) everyone trusts the Lord.

And Peter said, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself." ⁴⁰ And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." ⁴¹ So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. (Acts 2:38-41)

And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. (Ezekiel 36:26-27)

Why Does Baptism Matter?

- Baptism is commanded by Christ Himself as *the* identifying mark of membership in God's new society, the church.

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. (Matthew 28:19-20a)

- If you trust Christ but haven't been baptized, obey Christ's command and be baptized.
- If you have been baptized, obey Christ's commission and pray, work, and witness for more baptisms.

The sign, when rightly used, leads to the thing signified. (Andrew Fuller)