
Baptism
The Sign of Being United With Christ
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The Various Views on Baptism

Position	Subjects	Mode	Effect
Catholic	Infants - Adults	Sprinkle	Salvific
Lutheran	Infants – Adults	Sprinkle	Salvific*
Reformed	Infants – Adults	Sprinkle	“Covenantal”
Baptist	Believers	Immerse	Symbolic

1. Catholic – “By the act done”
2. Lutheran – “By the faith wrought”
3. Reformed – “By the benefits of the covenant”
4. Baptist – “By what baptism symbolizes”

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Catholic View Examined

By the act done: “Born with a fallen human nature and tainted by original sin, children also have need of **the new birth in Baptism** to be freed from the power of darkness and brought into the realm of the freedom of the children of God...” (Catechism 1250).

Titus 3:5 LEB. He saved us, not by deeds of righteousness that we have done, but because of his mercy, **through the washing of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit...**

John 3:5 Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is **born of water and the Spirit** he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”

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Lutheran View Examined

By the faith wrought: “Further, we say that we are not so much concerned to know whether the person baptized believes or not; for on that account Baptism does not become invalid; but **everything depends upon the Word and command of God**” (Larger Catechism).

Mark 16:16 He who has believed and has been baptized **shall be saved**; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.

1 Peter 3:21 NET And this prefigured baptism, which **now saves you**—not the washing off of physical dirt but the pledge of a good conscience to God—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ...

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Reformed View Examined

By the benefits of the covenant: Yes. For they as well as adults **belong to God’s covenant and community** (Gen. 17:7) and no less than adults are promised forgiveness of sin through Christ’s blood (Heidelberg).

Colossians 2:11-12 In him you also were **circumcised**—not, however, with a circumcision performed by human hands, but by the removal of the fleshly body, that is, through the circumcision done by Christ. 12 Having been buried with him in **baptism**, you also have been raised with him through your faith in the power of God who raised him from the dead.

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Baptist View Examined

By what baptism symbolizes: We believe that baptism should be reserved for believers because it preserves the testimony of the gospel by showing that only those who have repented and believed belong to the church (Thomas Schreiner).

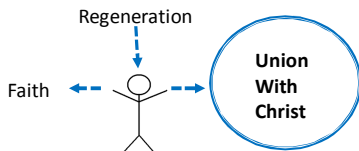
Galatians 3:25-27 But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. 26 For you are all sons of God **through faith in Christ Jesus**. 27 For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

Romans 3:28 For we maintain that **a man is justified by faith** apart from works of the Law.

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The Primary Meaning of Baptism

- **Baptism primarily symbolizes a believer's union with Christ that was accomplished through faith.**



Romans 6:3-4 Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

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Examples of Union in Baptism

Acts 19:3-5 And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" And they said, "Into John's baptism." 4 Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in Him who was coming after him, that is, in Jesus." 5 When they heard this, they were baptized **in the name of the Lord Jesus.**

1 Corinthians 1:12-13 Now I mean this, that each one of you is saying, "I am of Paul," and "I of Apollos," and "I of Cephas," and "I of Christ." 13 Has Christ been divided? Paul was not crucified for you, was he? Or were you baptized **in the name of Paul?**

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Examples of Union in Baptism

Acts 10:48 And he ordered them to be **baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.** Then they asked him to stay on for a few days.

1 Corinthians 10:1-2 For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea; 2 and all were **baptized into Moses** in the cloud and in the sea...

1 Corinthians 12:13 For by one Spirit we were all **baptized into one body**, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

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Baptism: An Historical Overview

<u>Genesis 1:2</u> God's Spirit overcomes the waters.	<u>Exodus 12-15</u> Israel is deluged out of Egypt.	<u>Church Age</u> Believers are baptized to identify with Christ.
<u>Genesis 6-9</u> Noah's family is deluged into the new world.	<u>Matthew 3</u> Jesus is baptized to identify with God's people.	

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To Sprinkle or Dunk?

Baptizo in the New Testament is used to refer to immersion:

Matthew 3:16 After being baptized, Jesus **came up immediately from the water**; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him...

Acts 8:38-39 And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both **went down into the water**, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him. 39 When they **came up out of the water**, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; and the eunuch no longer saw him, but went on his way rejoicing.

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Infants or Believers?

The New Testament teaches that baptism is for believers only:

Acts 2:41 So then, **those who had received his word were baptized**; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.

Acts 8:12 But **when they believed** Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, **they were baptized**, both men and women.

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Baptism Itself Does Not Save!

1 Corinthians 1:12-17 Now I mean this, that each one of you is saying, "I am of Paul," and "I of Apollos," and "I of Cephas," and "I of Christ." **13** Has Christ been divided? Paul was not crucified for you, was he? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? **14 I thank God that I baptized none of you** except Crispus and Gaius, **15** so that no one would say you were baptized in my name. **16** Now I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized any other. **17 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel**, not in cleverness of speech, so that the cross of Christ would not be made void.

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