

Baptism

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Baptism is an ordinance of the New Testament, ordained by Jesus Christ. It was initiated by John the Baptizer and symbolizes the death, burial and resurrection of the new believer. **Rom 6:4-8** “Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5- For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: 6- Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. 7- For he that is dead is freed from sin. 8- Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:” Every new believer must have their old nature (old man) die in this life. Baptism is also symbolized by a seed planted in the ground that must die so that a new plant can grow from it. **John 12:24** “Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn (grain) of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.”

The word *baptism* (βαπτίζω) is from the original New Testament Greek simply means in Greek to “immerse” in water. If a ship was sunk at sea, the Greeks would say that it was baptized. If someone put their hands in a bowl of water to wash, the Greeks would say they were baptizing their hands. However, if water was “poured” or “sprinkled” on their hands, the Greeks would **not** use the word *baptize*. The word “baptize” means “immerse”; it does **not** mean “pour”, **neither** does it mean “sprinkle”.

The later customs of "sprinkling" or "pouring", are believed to have been introduced years after the Apostles, for the purpose of infant baptism, which was not practiced in the NT. All NT baptisms followed a conscious adult decision of faith in Jesus Christ after conversion. Small children were not considered responsible or eligible for such a decision.

Another reason for the use of sprinkling or pouring was due to practical difficulties in some parts of the world—such as lack of large enough bodies of water or frozen conditions in winter. Sometimes there wasn't anything available. It may have been in the winter time and all the bodies of water were frozen. On a few occasions, some people have broken the ice on the top of the frozen water and baptized people in ice water..... and nobody got sick.

Ideally, baptism should follow the NT example: immersion, for believing adults. Not infant baptisms. Each person needs to make their own choice to believe in Jesus Christ. Exceptions (such as sprinkling or pouring) should only be made in extreme situations and with the leading of the Holy Spirit. In such cases, a temporary sprinkling or pouring baptism could later be followed by immersion. Note: the term "immersion

baptism" is technically redundant, since *baptism* already means immersion. ("immersion baptism" really means "immersion, immersion", because "baptism" means "immersion" in Greek. In Greek it is not understandable to say that someone has an "immersion" by "sprinkling" or that someone has an "immersion" by "pouring")

Some churches over-emphasize the specific words said during immersion. They may even go as far as to condemn others if the words are not said "correctly," as if those people haven't truly believed in Jesus Christ. Or, as though those people from other churches have been baptized in someone else's name, other than Jesus Christ, just because the name Jesus Christ was **not** spoken during the immersion.

However, during baptism, no words need to be spoken at all—the person's faith can be professed beforehand. Why create division in the body of Christ over such minor issues? Will God truly condemn someone to eternal punishment for saying "Jesus Christ" before immersion rather than during it? Or for saying "in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit"? Regardless of timing, the name Jesus Christ is almost always said before, during, or after the baptism.

In one church, with many converts, the leaders said all the baptismal words at the beginning and then baptized each person silently. Repeating the words for each person wasn't necessary. During the actual immersion into the water it's not necessary to say anything at all.

The church leaders who propagate these ridiculous divisions in the body of Christ are "wolves in sheep's clothing" working for Satan. They have no business propagating these false teachings. In the book of Mathew, it says: **Mat 28:19** "Go ye (y'all) **therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:**" Whereas, in the book of Acts it always says they were baptized in Jesus name. (Act 2:38 Act 8:12 Act 8:16 Act 10:48 Act 19:5 Act 22:16) Obviously, as is the custom that sons are commonly named after their fathers, the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost (Spirit) **is** Jesus Christ. God is one, and has one name. All of these passages are in agreement. **John 14:26** "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send **in my name**, he shall teach you all things,....."

Some churches have even abandoned baptism altogether. Since Jesus Christ himself gave the command to baptize, those people who refuse to do it will be considered disobedient and they will have no part or inheritance in the kingdom of Christ. (Mark 16:16) They will have no part in the marriage supper of the Lamb and will be denied entrance into the new city of Jerusalem. (Rev. 19:7-9) (Rev. 21:10-27) (Mat. 22:11-13) (See article listed below on: Salvation.) They have all lost their crown and their inheritance in the kingdom of God, in the next life.

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