

“WHY GET DUNKED?”

Illustration....water tank dunking machines

Christian baptism is one of two ordinances that Jesus instituted for the church.

Just before Christ ascended into heaven, He said this....

“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” (Matthew 28:19–20).

These instructions specify that the church (the body of Christ) is responsible to teach Jesus’ word, make disciples, and baptize those disciples.

These things are to be done everywhere (“all nations”) until “the very end of the age.”

Illustration, Billy baptizing believers in Uganda, Africa

So, if for no other reason, baptism has importance because Jesus commanded it.

Why was Jesus baptized?

At first glance, it seems that Jesus’ baptism has no purpose at all.

John’s baptism was the baptism of repentance

Matthew 3:11 “As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

Sooooo..... Jesus was sinless and had no need of repentance.

Even John was taken aback at Jesus’ coming to him.

John recognized his own sin and was aware that he, a sinful man in need of repentance himself, was unfit to baptize the spotless Lamb of God:

“I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” (Matthew 3:14).

Jesus replied that it should be done because “it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness” (Matthew 3:15).

There are several reasons why it was fitting for John to baptize Jesus at the beginning of Jesus’ public ministry.

1) Jesus was about to embark on His great work, and it was appropriate that He be recognized publicly by His forerunner.

John was the “voice crying in the wilderness” prophesied by Isaiah, calling people to repentance in preparation for their Messiah

Isaiah 40:3 The voice of one calling out,

“Clear the way for the LORD in the wilderness;

Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

By baptizing Him, John was declaring to all.... that here was the One they had been waiting for, the Son of God, the One he had predicted would baptize “with the Holy Spirit and fire” (Matthew 3:11).

Jesus’ baptism by John takes on an added dimension when we consider that John was of the tribe of Levi and a direct descendant of Aaron.

Luke specifies that both of John’s parents were of the Aaronic priestly line (Luke 1:5).

One of the duties of the priests in the Old Testament was to present the sacrifices before the Lord.

1) Jesus was about to embark on His great work, and it was appropriate that He be recognized publicly by His forerunner.

2) John the Baptist’s baptism of Jesus could be seen as a priestly presentation of the Ultimate Sacrifice.

John’s words the day after the baptism have a decidedly priestly air:

“Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29).

1) Jesus was about to embark on His great work, and it was appropriate that He be recognized publicly by His forerunner.

2) John the Baptist's baptism of Jesus could be seen as a priestly presentation of the Ultimate Sacrifice.

3) Jesus' baptism also showed that He identified with sinners.

phrasal verb) in the sense of relate to. Definition. to understand and sympathize with a person or group because one regards oneself as being similar or similarly situated.

She would only play the role if she could identify with the character.

Philippians 2:6 who, as He already existed in the form of God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped

7 but emptied Himself by taking the form of a bond-servant and being born in the likeness of men.

8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death: death on a cross.

emptied Himself.....means to empty, make empty

1. of Christ, he laid aside equality with or the form of God

He did that just so He could identify with us!!!!

His baptism symbolized the sinners' baptism into the righteousness of Christ, dying with Him and rising free from sin and able to walk in the newness of life.

His perfect righteousness would fulfill all the requirements of the Law for sinners who could never hope to do so on their own.

When John hesitated to baptize the sinless Son of God, Jesus replied that it was proper to "fulfill all righteousness" (Matthew 3:15).

By this He alluded to the righteousness that He provides to all who come to Him to exchange their sin for His righteousness

2 Corinthians 5:21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin in our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

1) Jesus was about to embark on His great work, and it was appropriate that He be recognized publicly by His forerunner.

2) John the Baptist's baptism of Jesus could be seen as a priestly presentation of the Ultimate Sacrifice.

3) Jesus' baptism also showed that He identified with sinners.

4) In addition, Jesus' coming to John showed His approval of John's baptism, bearing witness to it, that it was from heaven and approved by God.

This would be important in the future when others would begin to doubt John's authority, particularly after his arrest by Herod (Matthew 14:3-11).

Christ gave John's work a stamp of approval....

5) Perhaps most importantly, the occasion of the public baptism recorded for all future generations the perfect embodiment of the triune God revealed in glory from heaven.

The testimony directly from heaven of the Father's pleasure with the Son and the descending of the Holy Spirit upon Jesus

Matthew 3: 16 After He was 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 settling on Him,

17 and behold, a voice from the heavens said, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

is a beautiful picture of the trinitarian nature of God.

God is a Holy Trinity,

****image**** Holy Trinity

It also depicts the work of the Father, Son, and Spirit in the salvation of those Jesus came to save.

The Father loves the elect from before the foundation of the world

Ephesians 1:4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,

He sends His Son to seek and save the lost

Luke 19:10 "for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

and the Spirit convicts of sin and draws the believer to the Father through the Son.

John 16:8 "And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

All the glorious truth of the mercy of God through Jesus Christ is on display at His baptism.

When did Baptism begin?

History lesson.....

Baptism was practiced before the founding of the church.

The Jews of ancient times would baptize proselytes to signify the converts' "cleansed" nature.

John the Baptist used baptism to prepare the way of the Lord, requiring everyone, not just Gentiles, to be baptized because everyone needs repentance.

However, John's baptism, signifying repentance, is not the same as Christian baptism, as seen in Acts 18:24 Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus.

25 This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John.

19:3 And he said to them, "Into what then were you baptized?" So they said, "Into John's baptism."

4 ¶ Then Paul said, "John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus."

5 ¶ When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Christian baptism has a deeper significance.

First, it must be understood that baptism is an outward proclamation of an inward conversion.

In other words, baptism is a ceremonial act undertaken after a person accepts Jesus Christ as his or her Lord and Savior.

This is usually done in the presence of the church body as a public proclamation of one's faith.

No closet Christians...

Mark 8:38 "For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."

Concerning the origin of baptism, Christian theologians suggest that, although baptism was used by John the Baptist, baptism itself did not originate with Christians or, for that matter, with John.

Jews practiced baptism as a traditional act of purification and the initiation of converts to Judaism long before the coming of the Messiah.

So if you a Gentile wanted to start worshipping the Jewish God "Jehovah" then you would have to be ceremonially dipped before you can start attending the synagogue....

Not only that use of Baptism is seen in the OT.

But The origins of baptism might be found in the book of Leviticus where the Levite priests were commanded to perform a symbolic cleansing in water before and after performing their priestly duties.

Leviticus 16:4 tells us, "He is to put on the sacred linen tunic, with linen undergarments next to his body; he is to tie the linen sash around him and put on the linen turban.

These are sacred garments; so he must bathe himself with water before he puts them on."

Scripture also states in Leviticus 16:23-24, "Then Aaron is to go into the Tent of Meeting and take off the linen garments he put on before he entered the Most Holy Place, and he is to leave them there.

He shall bathe himself with water in a holy place and put on his regular garments.

Then he shall come out and sacrifice the burnt offering for himself and the burnt offering for the people, to make atonement for himself and for the people."

Although the act described in these Old Testament passages was not specifically called "baptism," it does highlight how important and holy ceremonial (and practical) cleansing is to God.

So Baptism was not a foreign idea to the Israelites at all....

John's "baptism of repentance" (Luke 3:3; Acts 19:4) followed this paradigm of cleansing, although the final cleansing from sin is only available through Christ, and John's baptism was the foreshadowing of that.

The significance of baptism as a New Testament ceremony is that, as believers in Jesus Christ, we are baptized into His death

Now it's our turn to IDENTIFY

to understand and sympathize with a person or group because one regards oneself as being similar or similarly situated.

Romans 6:3 Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?

and raised to walk in newness of life

4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too may walk in newness of life.

The Lord taught the significance of baptism to the extent that He Himself was baptized by John the Baptist at the start of His ministry (Mark 1:9).

Baptism is to be done in the name of the Father, Son, and Spirit—this is what makes it "Christian" baptism.

Have you thought about the significance that each person of the Godhead has with regard to baptism and our salvation? Leading up to the moment of your salvation, the Father called you, the Son died for you, and the Spirit convicted you. Now that you have been saved from sin, the Father calls you His child, the Son calls you His brother/sister, and the Spirit calls you His temple.

So in recognition of the Trinity, and their work in your Salvation, then we are baptized and honored to identify with!

It is through this ordinance that some denominations admit a person into the fellowship of their church

Baptism is so much more than putting your name on a roll book!

We don't keep a roll here.....

When we are saved, we are "baptized" by the Spirit into the Body of Christ, which is the church.

First Corinthians 12:13 says, "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."

Baptism by water is a “reenactment” of the baptism by the Spirit.

It is a visible picture of what has happened on the inside!

It’s sayingHEY EVERYBODY, I HAVE JESUS IN MY HEART , IM A CHRISTIAN, I DESIRE THAT OTHERS KNOW THAT ABOUT ME.....

Christian baptism is the means by which a person makes a public profession of faith and discipleship.

In the waters of baptism, a person says, wordlessly,

You don’t have to say a thing.....your action on that Sunday will speak for you!

“I confess faith in Christ; Jesus has cleansed my soul from sin, and I now have a new life.”

Christian baptism illustrates, in dramatic style, the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ.

At the same time, it also illustrates our death to sin and new life in Christ.

That we personally have died to our sin....

As the sinner confesses the Lord Jesus, he dies to sin

Romans 6:11 Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

and is raised to a brand-new life

Colossians 2:12 buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

Being submerged in the water represents death to sin, and emerging from the water represents the cleansed, holy life that follows salvation.

Romans 6:4 puts it this way: “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.”

Very simply, baptism is an outward testimony of the inward change in a believer’s life.

If God hasn’t saved you and you get Baptized, all you did was just get wet!

Christian baptism is an act of obedience to the Lord after salvation; although baptism is closely associated with salvation, it is not a requirement to be saved.

The Bible shows in many places that the order of events is 1) a person believes in the Lord Jesus and 2) he is baptized.

This sequence is seen inActs 2:41 So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.

A new believer in Jesus Christ should desire to be baptized as soon as possible.

In Acts 8 Philip speaks ...

35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him.

36 Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, “See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?”

37 ¶ Then Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” And he answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”

38 ¶ So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.

Right away, they stopped the chariot, and Philip baptized the man.

Baptism illustrates a believer’s identification with Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection.

Everywhere the gospel is preached and people are drawn to faith in Christ, they are to be baptized.

What is the symbolism of water baptism?

Water baptism symbolizes the believer’s total trust in and total reliance on the Lord Jesus Christ, as well

as a commitment to live

obediently to Him.

1) It expresses unity with all the saints

Ephesians 2:19 So then you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household,

that is, with every person in every nation on earth who is a member of the Body of Christ.

It doesn't make you part of the Body of Christ, but it symbolizes that you are!

Galatians 3:27 For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Water baptism conveys this and more, but it is not what saves us.

Instead, we are saved by grace through faith, apart from works

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;

9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

We get baptized because our Lord commanded it:

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19).

Water baptism is for believers.

Before we are baptized, we must come to believe that we are sinners in need of salvation

Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

We must also believe that Christ died on the cross to pay for our sins, that He was buried, and that He was resurrected to assure our place in heaven

I Corinthians 15:1 Now I make known to you, brothers and sisters, the gospel which I preached to you, which you also received, in which you also stand,

2 by which you also are saved, if you hold firmly to the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.

3 For I handed down to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, first...first in time or place

1. in any succession of things or persons

2. first in rank

1. influence, honour

2. chief

3. principal

When we turn to Jesus, asking Him to forgive our sins and be our Savior, we are born again by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Our eternal salvation is guaranteed, and we begin to die to ourselves and live for Christ

I Peter 1:3 ¶ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

4 to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable, undefiled, and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

5 who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

NOW, NOW, NOW YOU ARE READY! At that time we are scripturally qualified to be baptized.

2) Water baptism is a beautiful picture of what our Lord has done for us.

As we are completely immersed in the water,

we symbolize burial with our Lord; we are baptized into His death on the cross and are no longer slaves to self or sin Romans 6:3–7).

When we are raised out of the water, we are symbolically resurrected—raised to new life in Christ to be with Him forever, born into the family of our loving God

Romans 8:16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

3) Water baptism also illustrates the spiritual cleansing we experience when we are saved; just as water cleanses the flesh, so the Holy Spirit cleanses our hearts when we trust Christ.

4) The fact that water baptism is not a prerequisite for salvation is best seen in the example of a saved man who was not baptized in water—the criminal on the cross

Luke 23:39 Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, “If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us.”

40 But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, “Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation?

41 “And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong.”

42 Then he said to Jesus, “Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.”

43 And Jesus said to him, “Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.”

This self-confessed sinner acknowledged Jesus as his Lord while dying on a cross next to Him. The thief asked for salvation and was forgiven of his sins.

Although he never experienced water baptism, at that moment he was spiritually baptized into Christ’s death, and he then was raised to eternal life by the power of Christ’s word

Hebrews 1:3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

Christians should be baptized out of obedience to and love for our Lord Jesus

John 14:15 ¶ “If you love Me, keep My commandments.

5) Water baptism by immersion is the biblical method of baptism because of its symbolic representation of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ.

1. to dip repeatedly, to immerse, to submerge (of vessels sunk)

2. to cleanse by dipping or submerging, to wash, to make clean with water, to wash one's self, bathe

3. to overwhelm

I have always said, Baptism is not essential for Salvation but it is essential for every Born Again believer!

Let’s relook at the reason Christ was baptized and see how we fit into that reasoning!

I desire as your pastor that you obey God and you understand WHY you are doing this and for what reason....

1) Jesus was about to embark on His great work, and it was appropriate that He be recognized publicly by His forerunner.

*** Be recognized as a believer

2) John the Baptist’s baptism of Jesus could be seen as a priestly presentation of the Ultimate Sacrifice.

*** Understand the gift of salvation

3) Jesus’ baptism also showed that He identified with sinners.

***Unashamedly identify with Christ

4) In addition, Jesus’ coming to John showed His approval of John’s baptism, bearing witness to it, that it was from heaven and approved by God.

***Know the your Heavenly Father is approving of your step of Faith

5) Perhaps most importantly, the occasion of the public baptism recorded for all future generations the perfect embodiment of the triune God revealed in glory from heaven.

***Give Glory properly to the Triune God, and

....Thank the Father, who loved you before creation

....Thank the Son, who came to seek and save you, who was once lost

....Thank the Holy Spirit, who convicted you of your sin and made you desire to come to Christ.

Pastor Stan Riddle