

An underwater scene with blue water and many bubbles of various sizes. The word "Baptism" is written in a white, cursive font in the center of the image.

Baptism

Therefore, go 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

Baptism

- **Isaiah 40:3**, “A voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’”
- John the Baptist was the last of the Old Testament prophets
 - He was chosen by God to prepare the Nation of Israel for their Messiah
 - **Matthew 3:1-2 NIV**, 1 In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea 2 and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

Baptism

- John the Baptist was the last of the Old Testament prophets
 - **Matthew 3:5-6 NIV**, 5 People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. 6 Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.
 - People from all around would come to him, confessing their sinfulness and need for a Savior then were baptized as a sign of that inward repentance and looking for the Messiah

Baptism

- John the Baptist was the last of the Old Testament prophets
 - His reaction to the Religious Leader coming to investigate what he was doing was fierce
 - **Matthew 3:7-8 NIV**, 7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? 8 Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.”
 - Religious Leaders you also need to get your lives ready for the Messiah as well

Baptism

- John the Baptist was the last of the Old Testament prophets
 - John was Israel's understanding of what the Messiah would be like
 - John the Baptist's message is found in **Matthew 3:11 NIV**, "I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

Baptism

- John the Baptist was the last of the Old Testament prophets
 - Imagine John the Baptist's shock and feelings of inadequacy when the Messiah appear to him for baptism
 - **Matthew 3:13-14 NIV**, 13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. 14 But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"
 - **MSG**, But Jesus insisted. "Do it. God's work, putting things right all these centuries, is coming together right now in this baptism." So John did it.

Baptism

- Why would Jesus do this?
 - Possibility #1: Jesus was baptized in order to identify with those he came to save
 - According to the theologian Albert Barnes, “When John emerged, the people flocked to hear him and to be baptized. Throughout the whole country there was an unprecedented movement towards God. And Jesus knew...that he too must identify himself with this movement towards God” John’s baptism was part of the people’s turning from sin and turning toward God. Jesus wanted to identify with this turning.”

Baptism

- Why would Jesus do this?
 - Possibility #2: Jesus was baptized in order to mark the official start of his ministry, the passing of the ministry baton
 - Possibility #3: Jesus was baptized in order to ceremonially cleanse himself before being filled with the Holy Spirit
 - Jesus tells us why in **Matthew 3:15 NCV**, “We should do all things that are God’s will.”

Baptism

- There may be some truth in all these possibilities but to me the truth is, “Jesus was baptized to be identified with me, a hopeless sinner, rebel separated from a holy, righteous God because of my sin”
 - I am the Cain in the Cain and Abel story
 - I am the brothers that sold Joseph into slavery
 - I am the Judas who rejected Jesus
 - I am the crowd who yelled, “Crucify Him”

Baptism

- Hear Jesus say to our Heavenly Father
 - “I identify with Randy”
 - “God, look upon me as you do Randy...”
 - “Treat me as if I was Randy”
 - And God the Father did

Baptism

- This would be you as well
 - **Isaiah 53:6 NIV**, We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.
 - **MSG**, “We’re all like sheep who’ve wandered off and gotten lost. We’ve all done our own thing, gone our own way. And God has piled all our sins, everything we’ve done wrong, on him, on him.

Baptism

- The last ceremonial step for a Gentile becoming a practicing Jew (*proselyte*) was baptism
 - “He goes in a Gentile but comes out a Jew and will be treated as such.”
 - “Look upon him as you would one of Abraham’s physical descendants.”
- Why do we as a church baptize today or why should I be baptized today?

Scripture

- **Matthew 28:18-20 NIV**, 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.”

It is the first act of obedience after salvation to your Lord and Master Jesus Christ

- It has nothing to do with your salvation
 - **Ephesians 2:8-9 NIV**, 8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.
 - **NCV**, 8 I mean that you have been saved by grace through believing. You did not save yourselves; it was a gift from God. 9 It was not the result of your own efforts, so you cannot brag about it. 10 God has made us what we are.

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 - **MSG**, Saving is all his idea, and all his work. All we do is trust him enough to let him do it. It's God's gift from start to finish! We don't play the major role. If we did, we'd probably go around bragging that we'd done the whole thing! No, we neither make nor save ourselves. God does both the making and saving.

It is the first act of obedience after salvation to your Lord and Master Jesus Christ

- It has nothing to do with your salvation
 - Remember the thief on the cross asked Jesus to remember him when He came into His Kingdom – What did Jesus say to him?
 - “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.” **(Luke 23:43)**

It is the first act of obedience after salvation to your Lord and Master Jesus Christ

- We are commanded by our Lord Jesus to baptize born-again, children of God in the name or by the authority and power of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
 - It is God's way of identifying with us and our way of identifying with Him
 - It is the first act of obedience where you bow your knee and say, "Yes, Lord, I will do as you command"

Through the act of baptism you are demonstrating what God has done in your life

- Was it the water that brought repentance into the lives of those John the Baptist baptized?
- As Jesus identified with sinful man, we through faith and acceptance in the finished work of Christ, identify with His death, His burial in the tomb, His resurrection, and His righteous standing before God
 - Look upon me God through the death and burial of Jesus Christ
 - Let the result of His death pass onto me
 - I identify with or place myself into Jesus' death

Through the act of baptism you are demonstrating what God has done in your life

- I understand and accept that Jesus was sinless but yet died on the cross for my sin
 - **Romans 6:3 NCV**, Did you forget that all of us became part of Christ when we were (*spiritually*) baptized? We shared his death in our baptism (*salvation*).

Through the act of baptism you are demonstrating what God has done in your life

- I identify with or am placed into Jesus' resurrection
 - I understand and accept that death could not hold Jesus in the tomb, and He rose after three days, authenticated with sightings of Him and the empty tomb
 - I am placed into the promise of resurrection and eternal life

Through the act of baptism you are demonstrating what God has done in your life

- I identify with or placed into Jesus' resurrection
 - **Romans 6:4-5 NCV**, 4 When we were baptized, we were buried with Christ and shared his death. So, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the wonderful power of the Father, we also can live a new life. 5 Christ died, and we have been joined with him by dying too. So we will also be joined with him by rising from the dead as he did.

Through the act of baptism you are demonstrating what God has done in your life

- I identify with or placed into Jesus' righteousness and stand before God not in my own righteousness but Jesus'
 - **Philippians 3:9 NIV**, and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.
 - **NCV**, Now I am right with God, not because I followed the law, but because I believed in Christ. God uses my faith to make me right with him.

You may think of the act of baptism is silly and unnecessary, but can any obedience to God really be considered silly or meaningless?

- Jesus humbled himself by being obedient to God when He identified with me and you through water baptism
 - **Matthew 3:15 NCV**, Jesus answered, “Let it be this way for now. We should do all things that are God’s will.”

You may think of the act of baptism is silly and unnecessary, but can any obedience to God really be considered silly or meaningless?

- It was a seemingly silly command of not eating from the tree in the middle of the Garden of Eden that started all of this
 - It was a silly command to get into the ark that Noah built that would have saved the people – God’s plan of salvation
 - It was a silly command for Commander Naaman to dip himself seven times into the Jordan river to bring cleansing of his skin disease
 - No obedience to God should be considered silly or meaningless

You may think of the act of baptism is silly and unnecessary, but can any obedience to God really be considered silly or meaningless?

- It is an act of sin to not be obedient to the will of God in your life
 - **James 4:17 NCV**, Anyone who knows the right thing to do, but does not do it, is sinning.
 - So tell me, is baptism really silly and unnecessary?

Baptism

- Based upon the Word of God
 - It is His will that you be born-again through your personal faith and trust in Jesus Christ
 - Once salvation has come into your life, it is God's will for you to be baptized according to Scripture
 - Once you have been saved and baptized, it is His will that you become His disciple by learning to *"obey everything I have commanded you"*, (*Matt. 28:20*)
 - The only question then is will you set aside your pride, hurts, failures, rebellion and step into God's will and purpose for you

Baptism

- Joshua said it like this in **Joshua 24:14-15 NCV**, “14 Then Joshua said to the people, “Now respect the Lord and serve him fully and sincerely. Throw away the gods that your ancestors worshiped on the other side of the Euphrates River and in Egypt. Serve the Lord. 15 But if you don’t want to serve the Lord, you must choose for yourselves today whom you will serve. You may serve the gods that your ancestors worshiped when they lived on the other side of the Euphrates River, or you may serve the gods of the Amorites who lived in this land. As for me and my family, we will serve the Lord.”

The background of the entire slide is an underwater scene. The water is a deep, vibrant blue with visible ripples and light filtering through from above. Numerous bubbles of various sizes are scattered throughout the scene, some appearing as bright white circles with blue highlights, while others are more translucent. The overall effect is serene and clean, symbolizing purification and new life.

Baptism

Therefore, go 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