

Baptism

An Act Of Identity - Matthew 28:18-20

Baptism – An Act Of Identity

- Water baptism has always represented the coming out or away from and going into or toward another
 - The leaving of one existing life path and becoming dedicated to another
- True baptism was always a decision of the one being baptized
 - Forced baptism only got the one baptized wet

Baptism – An Act Of Identity

- Jewish Proselyte Baptism
 - Much time spent instructing them in Jewish commandments
 - It was a lengthy process involving learning Hebrew, Jewish history, and religious practices, plus demonstrating a deep commitment to living as a Jew
 - The final step was a Jewish (*mitzvah*) baptism by immersion
 - The convert is considered a "new person" who has left their former life behind to begin anew as a Jew

Baptism – An Act Of Identity

- Jewish Proselyte Baptism
 - Immersion in the water is compared to a baby's birth, as the person comes out of the water as a "newborn"
 - The Rabbi would publicly declare, "They go in a Gentile, but they come out a Jew"
 - They were now identified as Jewish in every way from that day forward
 - Was it the baptism that made them Jewish?

Baptism – An Act Of Identity

- The baptism of John the Baptist
 - **Matthew 3:1-2, 5-6 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.” 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.
 - John's baptism was a public sign of repentance and a call for people to turn away from their sins in preparation for the Messiah

Baptism – An Act Of Identity

- The baptism of John the Baptist
 - It was a preparatory step that acknowledged people's need for salvation and signaled a break from a previous life and return to living the Scriptures
 - The people began looking, expecting the appearance of the Messiah
 - It was a public declaration of intent to be identified with the coming Messiah through John's baptism

Baptism – An Act Of Identity

- The baptism of Jesus
 - **Matthew 3:13-15 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?” 15 Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John consented.
 - This was necessary to do everything the Father required of him demonstrating his humble obedience to God's will

Baptism – An Act Of Identity

- The baptism of Jesus
 - He submitted to baptism not for repentance, but to fulfill his mission to live a perfectly righteous life on behalf of those who believe in him
 - Jesus identified Himself with sinful humanity
 - **Philippians 2:5-8 NIV**, 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped (*held onto and used for an advantage*), 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

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.”

An Act Of Identity

- Baptist Faith and Message 2000
 - Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is a testimony to his faith in the final resurrection of the dead.

Baptism is an ordinance of the Lord

- The word ordinance comes from “he ordained it or commanded it”
 - **Vs. 19**, “baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”
 - God planned it and we are to continue doing it until Jesus returns

Baptism does not play a role in salvation, but is extremely important in discipleship

- **Romans 10:9 NIV**, If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.
 - **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.
 - With the forgiveness of sins and the sealing of the Holy Spirit, the Lordship of Christ comes into our lives

Baptism does not play a role in salvation, but is extremely important in discipleship

- Jesus is now to be Lord and Master of their life
- As Lord, He has commanded us to be baptized, “in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”

Baptism publicly demonstrates our identity in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus

- It is our public statement of faith and expresses our union with Christ in his death and resurrection
- And it is our symbolic representation of our new life in Christ Jesus
 - Our old life has been buried with Christ
 - We have been raised up into a new life in Christ Jesus

Baptism publicly demonstrates our identity in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus

- **Romans 6:3-4 TLB**, 3 When we became Christians and were baptized to become a part of Jesus Christ; through his death the power of your sinful nature was shattered. 4 Your old sin-loving nature was buried with him by baptism when he died; and when God the Father, with glorious power, brought him back to life again, you were given his wonderful new life to enjoy.

Baptism publicly demonstrates our identity in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus

- I now get my identity through or from who I am in Christ Jesus
 - **2nd Corinthians 5:17 NIV**, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come (*that person is a new creation*): The old has gone, the new is here!”
 - When we trust in Christ, his death counts as our death; his resurrection counts and is promised as our resurrection

Baptism publicly demonstrates our identity in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus

- Baptism is often seen as a public picture of God's grace
- Baptism is a public demonstration of our intent to be identified as a servant of Jesus Christ
- Since baptism is a public expression of one's faith it is only for those who believe and have accepted the salvation offered by Jesus on the cross

Baptism is to be by immersion

- **Romans 6:4 NIV**, “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.”
 - This describes the portrayal of death and burial and resurrection through going down into water as into a grave, and then coming back up out
- The Jewish proselyte baptism was immersion
 - John’s baptism was immersion
 - Jesus was immersed

Baptism is to be by immersion

- Every account in Scripture was by immersion
 - Philip and the Ethiopian – **Acts 8:36-38 NIV**, 36 As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?” 38 And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.
- There can be exceptions

Baptism is in the name of the triune God

- **Vs. 19**, “Baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”
 - This is a holy appeal to God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit to be present in this act, and make the portrayal true and real in the work of redemption in the life of the person
 - There’s no salvation without the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, the Trinity, one God in three persons
 - When we call upon their name — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit — we’re depending upon them, all of them and we’re honoring them

Baptism is in the name of the triune God

- **Vs. 19**, “Baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”
 - We’re saying that this act of baptism is by them and for them
 - You belong to the whole family of God with everything included in His family available to you
 - **Romans 8:17 NIV**, “Now if we are children, then we are heirs— heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ”
 - **Ephesians 1:3 ESV**, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places”

Baptism – An Act Of Identity

- Baptism is very important in the life of every born-again child of God
 - It was uncompromisingly commanded and ordained by the Lord Jesus until he comes
 - It was uniquely connected to conversion as an unrepeatable expression of saving faith
 - We're only justified once; we only die and are united to Christ once and permanently

Baptism – An Act Of Identity

- Baptism is very important in the life of every born-again child of God
 - Baptism is a sacred expression of faith, a faith that unites you to Christ and his people
 - Baptism is a public way to show that you are a follower of Jesus
 - Sharing your testimony, and proclaiming the gospel to family and friends
 - It is a way of publicly saying, "I am identified with Christ and Christ is identified with me"

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