

# WATER BAPTISM

The word 'baptize' is from the Greek verb 'baptidzo' which means 'to immerse'. The process of baptism consists of immersion, submersion and emergence. This process is used to describe John's baptism and Christian baptism.

Simply state, to baptize is to totally immerse an object in another substance and then bring it out again.

The awesome significance of water baptism is that it symbolizes the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ and our identification with Him in them.

## 1 Corinthians 15:21-22 & 45

For since it was through a man that death came into the world, it is also through a Man that the resurrection of the dead has come. For just as [because of their union of nature], in Adam all people die, so also [by virtue of their union of nature], shall all in Christ be made alive. Thus it is written, The first man Adam became a living being [an individual personality]; the last Adam [Christ] became a life-giving Spirit; restoring the dead to life.

- The Scriptures refer to Jesus as being the last Adam.
- Jesus, in His sacrifice for us, represented us.
- When a person receives Jesus as their Lord, they identify fully with what happened to Jesus.
- Water baptism is a physical act that should indelibly mark the mind of the person being baptized with the reality of their union with Jesus Christ.

## Romans 6:4-6

We were buried therefore with Him by the baptism into death, so that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, so we too might habitually live and behave in newness of life. For if we have become one with Him by sharing a death like His, we shall also be one with Him in sharing His resurrection by a new life lived for God. We know that our old, unrenewed self was nailed to the cross with Him in order that our body which is the instrument of sin might be made ineffective and inactive for evil, that we might no longer be the slaves of sin.

- Water baptism also gives the believer the opportunity to openly testify to others of their born-again experience.
- It serves as an outward sign and testimony of an inward grace.
- The believer has been crucified with Christ, buried with Him and raised together with Him to walk in newness of life.

## Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ, in Him I have shared His crucifixion; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life I now live in the body I live by faith in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

- Water baptism is the sign of the New Covenant.
- Water baptism is NOT the baptism that saves.
- It is the precious Blood of Jesus which cleanses us from sin.
- Water baptism shows the great exchange that takes place in the Covenant agreement.
- Jesus gave His life for you; you give your life to Him.
- Water baptism is an experience after salvation to confirm and strengthen your commitment to live a godly life.

## Romans 6:3 & 10-13

Are you ignorant of the fact that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? For by the death He died, He died to sin; ending His relation to it; once for all; and the life He lives, He is living to God in unbroken fellowship with Him. Even so consider yourselves also dead to sin and your relation to it broken, but alive to God; living in unbroken fellowship with Him in Christ Jesus. Let not sin therefore rule as king in your mortal bodies, to make you yield to its cravings and be subject to its lusts and evil passions. Do not continue offering or yielding your bodily members and faculties to sin as instruments or tools of wickedness. But offer and yield yourselves to God as though you have been raised from the dead to perpetual life, and your bodily members and faculties to God, presenting them as implements of righteousness.

- The baptismal waters represent a burial ground.
- When you are buried with Christ in baptism, you are proclaiming to Heaven, Earth, and hell that the old you no longer exists.
- To be buried with Jesus means that your old self died to sin just as Jesus did when He was made sin for us.
- That's why we are immersed--it is a picture of burial.
- Coming up out of the water signifies our being raised to new life in Christ.
- To be raised with Jesus means making Him Lord of every area of your life--spirit, soul, and body.
- You have been bought with the Blood of Jesus and you BELONG to Him. Think about that!
- Every day you now ask, "Lord, where do You want me to go? What do You want me to say? What do You want me to be? Not my will, but Thy will be done!"

When we, in obedience to our Father's Word, reckon, account and confess that we are dead to sin and alive to God through Jesus, we will experience both progress in our Christian lives and victory on a daily basis.

Old habits and the relics of sin from our former lives will fall to the ground. Our minds will experience renewal and we will be living expressions of Jesus Christ in this Earth.

Water baptism should be a very significant time in your life as a believer. It's a time to fully commit to obey and follow Jesus, being willing to fulfill the purpose and plan of Almighty God for your life. This is not something just for super-Christians.

It is basic Christianity--part of the solid foundation you need to build upon. So, if you feel you've never PROPERLY buried your old, sinful nature and dedicated your whole self to the Lord, don't wait any longer--find a place to participate in water baptism and get totally free!