

- 5) Baptism is “in the name of Jesus” which emphasizes his authority and lordship in our lives (cf. 1 Cor. 10:2).
- 6) Baptism is a symbol of the washing (cleansing from sin) and the renewal of the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5, 6).

And by this we know we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments.

1 John 2:3

Instructions for Baptismal Candidates

- ◆ Baptisms are held every month except for April, August & December
- ◆ Required pre-baptism class is offered at 10:30am & 12:30pm on the **first Sunday** of the month of baptisms. You are required to attend one class before being baptized.
- ◆ Be at church at least fifteen minutes before service time. **Please be on time.** We will gather near the baptistery. Proceed to the changing rooms behind the baptistery.
- ◆ Bring a towel and a bathing suit or shorts. You will get a GGF tee shirt to wear during baptism. (remember you will get wet).
- ◆ You will be asked to share a word of testimony or a statement of your faith in Jesus Christ. Relax! Often we video the testimonies for Sunday services ahead of time. Joey DiCara will be in touch to schedule this video. These testimonies are important because they not only enable you to confess Christ publicly, but also because they allow the body of Christ to rejoice with you in his grace.
- ◆ After your testimony, the Pastor will pray for you and then give the baptismal formula we use... “and now upon your confession of faith in Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, I do now baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.” Just relax, cross your arms in front of you, and bend your knees at that time. We will get you up again (if you want to hold your nose, you may). Rejoice in your death to sin, and your resurrection to new life with Christ. Take time to thank Him and glorify Him. You will proceed to the changing rooms behind the baptistery.

We pray this will be a meaningful and memorable experience.



Have You
Been
Baptized?



GRACEPOINT
ENCOUNTER - GROW - SERVE

Self-Study Outline
on
Christian Baptism

Self-Study Outline On Christian Baptism

Baptism is not necessary for salvation – salvation is by grace through faith alone (Eph. 2:8). However baptism is a necessity for the Christian. Jesus said, “If you love me you will keep my commandments.” Baptism is commanded by Jesus Christ in the Gospels, illustrated and practiced in the book of Acts, and its significance explained in the Epistles. In this brief self-study we desire to pursue three questions: For Whom, How and Why? In other words, the subjects, mode and significance of baptism in water. Our purpose is to allow the Scriptures to speak for themselves on this truth.

I. BAPTISM – FOR WHOM AND WHEN?

A. Discover if it is true that baptism was administered to believers only in all of these N.T. instances?

- 1) According to the Great Commission (Mt. 28:19).
- 2) At Pentecost (Acts 2:38-41).
- 3) In the Samaria revival (Acts 8:12).
- 4) The Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:26-38).
- 5) The household of Cornelius (Acts 10:44-48).
- 6) The household of Lydia (Acts 16:14, 15).
- 7) The Philippian jailer (Acts 16:29-34).
- 8) The Corinthian believers (Acts 18:8).

B. Discover if baptism was administered to the people above immediately or very soon after personal conversion to Christ. There is no reason for delay.

II. BAPTISM – HOW?

A. Discover if immersion is the only form of baptism mentioned in the New Testament, or did they have optional modes?

- 1) John the Baptizer was administering baptism “in” the River Jordan (Mark 1:5, 9). In the last passage the Greek word “*eis*” is literally “into”. Jesus came “up out of the water” (v.10).
- 2) John was baptizing where there was “much water” (John 3:23).
- 3) Philip and the eunuch went down “into” the water (Acts 8:38).

4) Baptism is referred to as a “burial” and a “resurrection” (Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:12).

B. A look at church history.

- 1) There is no evidence that any mode of baptism other than immersion was practiced for the first 200 years.
- 2) The Greek word “*baptizo*” means to dip, immerse, even to plunge, sink or overwhelm (Bauer’s Greek-English Lexicon).
- 3) *The Didache*, an early Christian teaching, allowed for baptism by pouring only when it was physically impossible to immerse.
- 4) Historically, church leaders agree. Martin Luther: “I would have those who are to be baptized to be entirely immersed, as the word imports and the mystery signifies.” John Calvin: “The word baptize signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the ancient church.” John Wesley said: “Buried with Him, alluding to baptizing by immersion according to the custom of the first church.”

III. BAPTISM – WHY?

A. Check the veracity of the following statements by referring to the Scriptures quoted.

- 1) Baptism is not the first step in salvation, but one of the first steps in witness and holy living (Acts 2:38, Romans 6:4-6). It is a step of obedience (Mt. 28:19). Christ commanded baptism of his followers.
- 2) Baptism is a public identification with the fellowship of believers (Acts 2:41) and with Christ (Mt. 3:13f; Gal. 3:27). We follow His example (Mark 1:9). We follow the pattern of N.T. believers (Acts 18:8).
- 3) Baptism symbolizes our being crucified, buried and resurrected with Jesus Christ (Romans 6:4-6; Col. 2:12). It is a symbol of our union with Him.
- 4) Baptism is an answer to God of good conscience (I Peter 3:21).