

WATER BAPTISM

Water Baptism is an ordinance in the Christian church that varies somewhat between denominations and churches. The proper way to be baptized is by immersion, which is what the Word itself implies and what Jesus did as an example for us (Matthew 3:14-17). In addition, we are to be baptized subsequent to accepting Jesus as Lord. Examples abound in scripture to include those saved at Cornelius' house (Acts 10: 44-48), Lydia and her household (Acts 16:13-15), and the jailer's family (Acts 16: 29-33).

Water baptism is a command and is not really optional (Matthew 28:19). It is the equivalent to the circumcision required in the Old Testament and is a spiritual experience, not just an outward sign of an inward change. There is a cutting away or removal just as there was when Israel went through the Red Sea – a removal of the enemy and the world.

Colossians 2:11-12

“and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ; buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.”

There is a very strong covenant implication in water baptism. Ephesians 5 compares Christ and the church to a husband and wife and in marriage – and as the wife goes into the name of the husband in marriage, we go in (into) the name of Jesus in water baptism.

Matthew 28:19

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,”

Coming out of the waters of baptism we start anew, able to throw off the things of the world and walk in newness of life.

Romans 6:3-7

“Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?

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

For if we have become united with {Him} in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall be also {in the likeness} of His resurrection,

knowing this, that our old self was crucified with {Him,} that our body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin.”