

The Basics of Baptism

In the world *generally*, or even in the religious world *specifically*, there seems to be much confusion and little understanding of “baptism” and how it fits into salvation. For instance...

- Belief → Salvation → Baptism (**Protestant**)
- Infant Baptism → Salvation → Belief (**Catholic**)
- H.S. Baptism → Belief → Salvation (**Evangelicals**)
- Belief → Baptism → Salvation (**Jesus, Mk.16:16**)

Let's see if we can make things a bit clearer...

The Basics of Baptism

The **concept** of baptism is simple. It represents two facets of our spiritual lives:

1. The ***Death*** of our old self of selfishness and sin, [Rom.6:1-7](#); [Col.2:12](#); [Eph.2:1ff.](#)
2. The ***Birth*** of our new self of selflessness and service, [Rom.6:8-11](#); [John 3:3,5.](#)

Baptism is, therefore, both an ***end*** as well as a ***beginning***.

The Basics of Baptism

Scriptural, New Testament baptism is made of three essential parts- remember the **3 P's**:

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1. The candidate must be the right **Person**- a penitent believer, John 1:12; Acts 2:36-38a; 8:12-13,35-37.

2. For baptism to be scriptural, it must be done for the right **Purpose**- for the remission of sins through the blood of Jesus, Acts 2:38b; 22:16; Titus 3:5.

3. For baptism to be effective, it has to be the right **Practice**- immersion/burial in water, Col.2:12; Rom.6:4.

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For baptism to be scriptural and effective, it requires the right **Person**, **Purpose**, and **Practice**.

With these things in order, baptism:

- ✓ Is “*in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit*” (**Matt.28:19b**) because it is *by their authority*;
- ✓ Makes you a “*disciple*” of Christ, **Matt. 28:19a**;
- ✓ Is the beginning of your journey toward heaven, **Matt.28:20**.

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Now, here are the questions to be answered:

- Are you the right **Person**- a penitent believer in Jesus Christ?
- Do you understand the **Purpose** of baptism- the remission of your sins and becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ?
- Are you ready to have the right **Practice** of immersion/burial in water applied to you?

Then, **“why do you delay?”** Acts 22:16