

Baptism by immersion is therefore the mode of baptism or the way in which baptism was carried out in the New Testament.”

Baptism Study

#1 What is baptism?

<https://youtu.be/E4aPXgg0PtI>

Matthew 28:19–20 (ESV) – 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

We can respond to question forty-four with the following answer: **baptism is the washing with water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; it signifies and seals our adoption into Christ, our cleansing from sin, and our commitment to belong to the Lord and to His church.**

1. In the video David said baptism signifies our unity with Jesus—His death and resurrection. It also means we participate in community with other believers. What stands out to you the most about this answer? Why?

We can look back on our baptism as a reminder that we are united with Christ and now belong to a community of faith. It gives us assurance of God’s presence in our lives and of our membership in God’s family.

2. Does the answer to this question impact your Christian walk? If so, how and why?

Read through Matthew 28:19. Take a moment to reflect on baptism. Use the space below to respond. You can write out a prayer, list the implications of baptism, or brainstorm ways you can apply the principle to your life.

Take time this week to learn the answer to this question and memorize Matthew 28:19. Allow God to transform your heart, mind, and actions as you reflect on or participate in baptism.

#2. Is baptism with water the washing away of sin itself?

<https://youtu.be/CPem-mwcmkc>

Luke 3:16 (ESV) — 16 John answered them all, saying, “I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

We can respond to question forty-five with the following answer: no, only the blood of Christ and the renewal of the Holy Spirit can cleanse us from sin.

1. In the video Kent said that baptism with water does not wash away sin—only Christ’s blood and the work of the Holy Spirit cleanses us from sin. What stands out to you the most about this answer? Why?

Through the Holy Spirit, we experience regeneration, renewal, love for God’s Word, sanctification, adoption into the family of God, and cleansing from sin. Baptism serves as an external symbol of the internal baptism of the Spirit.

2. Does the answer to this question impact your Christian walk? If so, how and why?

Read through Luke 3:16. Take a moment to reflect on baptism. Use the space below to respond. You can write out a prayer, list the implications of baptism, or brainstorm ways you can apply the principle to your life.

Take time this week to learn the answer to this question and memorize Luke 3:16. Allow God to transform your heart, mind, and actions as you participate in or reflect on baptism.

Testimony

Prior to your actual baptism, we would like to show a short 3-4 minute video of you declaring your faith in Christ and desire to follow Him in baptism. The office staff will contact you on the baptism week. You should allot at least 30 minutes for this, although it should take much less time. Much will depend on you and how much you have been able to put your thoughts together. He will be able to edit out stuff, so don't worry about getting it all exactly right. There are three parts to a good testimony. First, what was your life before you found Christ? What was the main issue you were struggling with? Second, what caused you to turn to Jesus? Was there a particular person or event that caused you to move in His direction? Finally, what do you believe now about the Lord Jesus Christ? The following are some examples to help you...

Describe your life before you found Christ?

A - "I never thought about religion at all. I thought I lived a pretty good life. I did not think I needed anyone's help."

A - "I was lonely most of the time. I had friends, family, of course, but it never seem enough."

A - "I was messed up. I did a lot of stuff I should not have done. I don't even know why, I just did them."

What caused you to see you needed Christ in your life?

A - "I never had a dramatic 'moment.' But I had a friend who was a Christian and I saw they had something I did not, and I realized I wanted it."

A - "I was invited to church by a friend and the more I came, the more I realized that I did not have the faith that others did, and I wanted it."

A - "I was so desperate, I knew I needed to change or I was going to die. Just then I met____, and he/she started talking to me about Jesus."

What do you believe now about Jesus Christ?

A - (This has to come from your own heart. Think about this carefully. You do not need to give a 'perfect' answer. Simply express how you know that Jesus Christ is your Savior and how you now want to live a life in obedience to Him.

Additional Information

New City Catechism Commentary

George Herbert

As he that sees a dark and shady grove,
Stays not, but looks beyond it on the sky
So when I view my sins, mine eyes remove
More backward still, and to that water fly,
Which is above the heav'ns, whose spring and rent
Is in my dear Redeemer's pierced side.
O blessed streams! either ye do prevent
And stop our sins from growing thick and wide,
Or else give tears to drown them, as they grow.
In you Redemption measures all my time,
And spreads the plaster equal to the crime:
You taught the book of life my name, that so,
Whatever future sins should me miscall,
Your first acquaintance might discredit all.

Collin Hansen

When I told my pastor I wanted to become a church member, he offered a simple explanation for why I should then seek baptism: because Jesus did so. Why, though, did Jesus wade into the Jordan and ask his cousin John to lower him beneath the waters? After all, he had no sin to confess, no need to repent.

I've always sympathized with John's incredulous response to Jesus's request. "I need to be baptized by you," said John, who prepared the way for the Christ, "and do you come to me?" (Matt. 3:14).

Yes, Jesus responded, "for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness" (Matt. 3:15).

In his baptism, Jesus identified with all of us who, because of sin, will someday die as a result of God's judgment (Gen. 3:19). Water has been a sign of God's judgment since Genesis 6–7, when God judged the wickedness of man and sent a flood to destroy all but Noah and his family. Though he never would sin, Jesus would nevertheless die at the hands of sinful men as he absorbed the wrath of God for the sinful world.

Water, of course, is also necessary for life. Before there was light, the Spirit of God hovered over the waters (Gen. 1:2). And one day when the resurrected and ascended Jesus returns to inaugurate the new heavens and the new earth, a river of life will flow from the throne of God and of the Lamb in the New Jerusalem (Rev. 22:1–2). Any who follow him into the waves as enemies of God will emerge as brothers and sisters of the Son of God, fellow heirs of his eternal inheritance.

Baptism is a sign and seal that we have been adopted into the family of God. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit have loved one another in perfect unity since before creation, before God molded Adam from the dust. At Jesus's baptism we notice all three persons. As Jesus emerges from the water, the Spirit of God descends like a dove and rests on him (Matt 3:16). So that no one will mistake the meaning of the sign, the Father boasts from heaven, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased" (Matt. 3:17).

Every time I remember my baptism, I hear these words of blessing. Jesus was plunged beneath the waters of judgment, so that I might drink the waters of everlasting life. Because Jesus calls me brother, I can call God my Father. Because the Spirit descended on him as a dove, I have peace with God, who once regarded me as his enemy.

Once I was outside the people of God, estranged from this family due to my sin. But now I am a brother to all who have been likewise baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The church is our home, the place where, despite our disagreements and disputes, we come together to confess that we have one Lord and one faith (Eph. 4:5). To us has been given the Great Commission to follow in John's footsteps and call others to repentance while we point them to Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29). We baptize so they might always know that God loves them, that he is well pleased with them because they now belong to Christ.

Further Thoughts on Baptism

- **[What is Baptism and how important is it?](#)**
- **[What does the Bible say about Baptism?](#)**
- **[Where is baptism in the order of the Christian life?](#)**
- **[Look to your Baptism](#)**
- **[3 Ways Baptism & the Lord's Supper Ought to Shape our Monday through Saturday](#)**
- **[A Strategy for Delaying the Baptism of Young Children](#)**
- **[Baptism is a Church's Act](#)**
- **[Edmund Clowney on Baptism](#)**