

Sermon Title:

“What Is Baptism And Why Does It Matter?”

Sermon Text:

Selected Scripture

Introduction:

- *In our effort to come to terms with what baptism is and why it matters, there are several significant questions that must be asked:*

## I. What Is Baptism?

### A. Baptism Is An Ordinance Of The Lord

- *Matthew 28:16-20*
- What does the phrase, “*baptizing them*” imply?
- *The point is that making disciples of all nations includes baptizing them!*
- Baptism demonstrates an attitude and a spirit of **submissive obedience** to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

### B. Baptism Is A Visible Expression Of Our Union With Christ

- *Romans 6:3-4*
- The point that Paul is making here is 2-fold: 1) it is by **faith** that we are united with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection; 2) it is by **baptism** that we are giving a visible expression of our union with Christ!
- In reality, a person being baptized is giving **spiritual truth physical form**.

*When you are baptized, you are visually preaching the **gospel!***

*“The only reason that Baptism has any meaning and importance at all is because of the death and resurrection of Jesus which has rescued us from the wrath of God and has secured our everlasting joy in His glorious presence!”*

## II. Who Should Be Baptized?

- Because baptism is an expression of our **faith** in Christ, it is therefore only for those who have **trusted** in Christ.
- *Acts 2:37-41; 8:9-13; 8:34-39; 9:10-18; 10:44-48*
- The only people who are qualified to be baptized are those that have first been **saved!**

*Have you been baptized since you trusted in Christ for salvation?*

- If you neglect baptism, you are **disobeying** the Lord!

### III. How Should We Baptize?

- The Greek word “**bapto**” always means, “to **dip**, or to **dip into**.” It means “to place into water, to **submerge** or **immerse**.”
- The Greek word “**baptidzo**” is a stronger form of the word “**bapto**” and it means “to dip **completely**, to totally **submerge**, or to **immerse** into water.”

*Biblical baptism is always presented as a **total immersion** into water.*

- *Matthew 3:5-6; 3:13–16; Mark 1:5; John 3:23; Acts 8:35-39*

*“Taken together the Bible makes it abundantly clear that **immersion** is the only proper and acceptable method of baptism!”*

### IV. When Should A Person Be Baptized?

- Baptism is often referred to as the very **first act** of **obedience** in the life of a new believer!
- *Matthew 3:5-6; Mark 1:5; Acts 2:41; 8:36-38; 9:18*

*“Baptism is the immediate indicator of salvation, for if a person has truly been saved then they will not hesitate to let that be known by submitting to this act of obedience!”*

- *To state it simply, baptism should be done as soon as possible **after conversion**.*

### Conclusion:

- *Baptism is not necessary for **salvation**, but it is necessary if you want to live a life of **obedience**!*
- *Matthew 10:32-33*

***“If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word.”***

*(John 14:23)*